

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

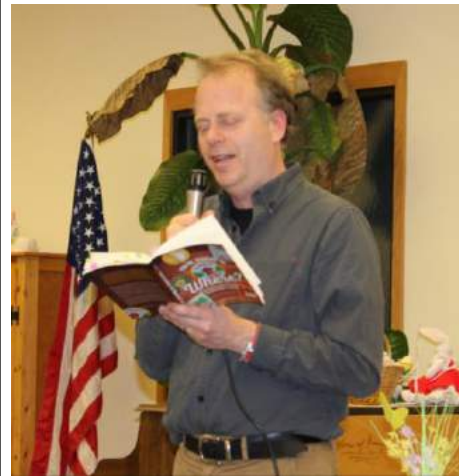
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# Vennelag News

## April Lodge Meeting

About 40 lodge members, visitors and guests were in attendance at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. A delicious meal was followed by a short business agenda of mainly announcements of upcoming events.



Author **Eric Dregni** read excerpts from his book *You're sending me where? Dispatches from Summer Camp*.



Two Mt. Horeb school students shared a few of **their** experiences from the "Italian Language Camp" they attended at Bemidji, MN. Eric is the Dean at the Italian language camp.

## Upcoming Events

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

**2017**

- May 6 - Norway Trip briefing (MHCC), 1 PM
- May 20 – Membership Brunch 9:30 AM
- May 21 – Ride Viking ship in Stoughton parade
- May 25 – Syttende Mai Celebration – 6:30 PM
- Jun 17 - Baking Workshop – **MEMBERS ONLY** 8:30 AM
- Jun 22 –Midsummer Celebration, Donald Park-Pop's Knoll (Mt. Vernon, WI) 6:30 PM
- Jun 29 – Rain date for Midsummer Celebration –6:30 PM
- Jul 14 – Preparation for Annual Kaffe Stue (MHCC) 2 PM
- Jul 15 – Kaffe Stue Luncheon and Bake Sale (MHCC)
- Jul 16 -29 – Masse Moro Heritage Camp (Ages 9-15)
- Aug 19 – Brats and Bake Sale – Miller's Grocery Store, Mt. Horeb

**Board Meetings**

- May 11 - Board meeting 6:30 PM Culver's, Mt. Horeb.
- Jun 15 – Board meeting 6:30 PM Culver's, Mt. Horeb.

**TUBFRIM**

Save used stamps and expired or used phone cards for Tubfrim to help disabled children and youth in Norway. Cut leaving about ¼ inch around each stamp on all sides. Bring them to a lodge meeting.

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 our members.

## Ord fra presidenten



### WELCOME SPRING!

After a rather dismal March and April, we are now being teased by warmer temperatures, beautiful sights, and the “smell” of spring. Budding flowers, growing grass, spring rains, sunny skies with puffy white clouds, and the sight of earthworms returning to the soil’s surface are all signs that we have turned the corner to a definite spring season.

At Vennelag Lodge, we are gearing up for a busy month of May. On **Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM**, Linda Mc Cormick from Borton Overseas will be in “our house” to share many details of Vennelag’s upcoming trip to Norway. She will highlight the finalized itinerary, answer questions and make suggestions for packing. Please bring your list of concerns and get answers to your queries.

On **Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**, Vennelag will be holding a membership brunch for those individuals who joined during 2015 and 2016. We hope that this informative meeting helps our newest members to better understand how Vennelag Lodge operates. Invitations will be sent and an RSVP is requested.

Following brunch, I would suggest that you drive to Stoughton to take in some of the wonderful festivities that are happening over Syttende Mai weekend. Don’t forget to drop by our sister lodge-Mandt Lodge while you are there. They are serving food that weekend and are also holding a bake sale. The fabulous Stoughton Norwegian Dancers will be performing. Check on-line for an updated schedule.

On **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**, we will be taking our Viking Ship to Stoughton to ride in their grand Syttende Mai Parade. The parade participants meet at Mandt Park (site of the Stoughton Junior Fair) where sandwiches and a bottle of water await the sailors. Families are encouraged to bring side dishes such as: relishes, chips, salads, or desserts. I would love to fill the boat with a great mix of young and older members! All of you are encouraged to participate, and feel welcome to invite others to join you! I suggest arriving before 12 noon when area streets are closed!

**Thursday evening May 25<sup>th</sup>** will be an outstanding night for Vennelag Lodge members. A fabulous potluck meal will be served prior to our program when we will be celebrating Syttende Mai-the signing of the Norwegian constitution. Special music has been requested from the talented Eric Albrecht and friends, and we will also honor veteran members and recognize new members among us. This special celebration will feature a fabulous presenter Dr. James P. Leary. He will share with us the music of the Norwegian immigrants of the Upper Midwest.

We are adding a June meeting to our schedule this year, and we plan to celebrate *Midsommer* at Pop’s Knoll inside of Donald Park. We will conduct a short meeting, enjoy a potluck dinner, and stroll Donald Park before night falls. Invited are members from the Madison Astronomical Society. Three large telescopes will be available for viewing the night skies. Stories about the constellations will be shared. A date of **Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>** has been chosen with a rain date of June 29<sup>th</sup> also reserved. Festivities begin at 6:30 PM. This event is perfect for families! Invite a guest!

*Cheryl*



## WE CAN'T “KAFFE STUE” WITHOUT YOU!

Preparations for the 2017 Kaffe Stue will begin on Friday afternoon, July 14, 2017, beginning at 2 PM. Separate activities will be happening concurrently. Nancy Kittleson and Ann Walser will lead the kitchen crew, with many jobs available to willing participants. As our previous president George Sievers always said, “Many hands make light work.” I send my heartfelt thanks in advance for your willingness to help. Duane Kittleson and I will lead the floor crew as we prepare for our many guests. Furniture needs to be moved, tables need to be covered, and chairs placed in the proper locations. Our main serving table also needs to be prepared, as well as our makeshift refrigerator, and pastry area. Displays need to be hung and the bake sale foods need to be checked-in and organized. We realize people’s schedules are especially hectic during the summer months, but any time you could spare would be a bonus for our lodge.

The Kaffe Stue is one of our largest fundraisers of the year, and it is through this fundraising that we are able to invite quality speakers, offer programming options, and treat our members at the annual Juletre Fest. We also use some of the monies collected to participate in a variety of local philanthropic organizations, making Vennelag Lodge an outstanding community partner.

### THE FACTS

- The 2017 Vennelag Lodge Kaffe Stue will be held on Saturday, July 15, 2017, at the Mt. Horeb Community Center (MHCC,) 107 N. Grove Street. Please extend an invitation to your family and friends to join us. We will begin serving close to 9:00 AM that day.
- We need volunteers to serve foods and drinks to our guests. Others are needed to clean and reset tables, as well as assist our diners with their trays. We can work with your available time to accomplish those tasks.
- Bring out your “inner Norskie” by preparing a food item. We have many options to choose from such as: traditional cookies, breads, cakes, fruit soups, smørgrøt. (See information about a food class below!)

If you are unable to join us this year, a monetary donation helps us to trim our grocery bill; that, too, is needed.

We have begun contacting our members about how they can assist us, and I will bring the sign-ups sheets to our next few meetings. Your participation is crucial to our success. Consider how your involvement will make a difference for Vennelag Lodge.



### **Norwegian Baking Class-FOR MEMBERS ONLY!**

If you would like to bring Norwegian treats, but don’t know how to make them, consider joining us at our Norwegian Baking Class for Members Only! The class will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at the MHCC, beginning at 8:30 AM. There is no cost to our members. Our goal is to conclude by early afternoon. The equipment and the materials will be provided for your learning enjoyment. We’ll show you how to make some of the best Norsk treats around, and we welcome you to celebrate your heritage in the process!

In order to prepare for this event, I will need to know how many participants will be attending. Please send me an e-mail ([rogcher@mhtc.net](mailto:rogcher@mhtc.net)) or place a call to: [608-219-4464](tel:608-219-4464) to reserve your place. The foods we make that day will be frozen for the Kaffe Stue, but please know there will be a treat or two for you to enjoy! The coffee pot will be on all morning and you are encouraged to take a break!

\*Each fall, Vennelag Lodge also offers a Norwegian Baking Class to others. If you have friends or family members who would be interested in attending, ask them to mark their calendar for **Saturday, November 4, 2017**. The event will also be held at the MHCC, and it begins at 8:30 AM with a welcome breakfast. The cost per attendee is \$20.00. Participants will leave that day with a selection of wonderful delicacies for their holiday table.

## Fun Facts about Norway's King Harald V



Photo: Jørgen Gornæs / The Royal Court.

February 21 marked the 80th birthday of His Majesty King Harald V of Norway. In honor of this special occasion, here are five facts you might not know about the monarch.

### **1. First Norwegian king born in Norway in 567 years.**

Although Norway's history dates back many centuries, the country's status as a modern independent nation is comparatively young. Due to the lengthy union with Denmark and later Sweden, many monarchs of Norway hailed from other European countries. The election of King Haakon VII (Harald's grandfather) in 1905 marked the first monarch chosen by an independent Norway since the Middle Ages.

### **2. He is an Olympian.**

An avid sailor, H.M. King Harald represented Norway three times in the Olympics, participating in the 1964, 1968 and 1972 games. He and his crew also won World Championship bronze, silver and gold medals in 1988, 1982 and 1987. In 2005, they won the European Championships with the Fram XV.

### **3. He extended his Royal Patronage to the Sons of Norway Foundation.**

In 1992 King Harald became a patron of the Sons of Norway Foundation. During subsequent years the king has affirmed continual confidence in the mission and philanthropy of the Foundation by renewing his patronage through 2020.

### **4. A portion of the Arctic is named after him.**

Over 2,500 square miles of eastern Svalbard was dubbed "Harald V Land" by the Norwegian Polar Institute in honor of the king in 2013. King Harald is the third Norwegian monarch—preceded by Olav V and Haakon VII—to have part of Svalbard named in his honor. In 2015 he was the world's first reigning monarch to visit Antarctica.

### **5. His courtship was unique.**

Then Crown Prince, Harald broke from tradition when he married Sonja Haraldsen, a commoner, after a nine-year courtship. After consulting with the Presidium of the Storting, parliamentary leaders and the Norwegian government, King Olav gave his permission for the couple to marry in March of 1968. On Aug. 29, 1968, Harald and Sonja were married at Oslo Cathedral.





Special guests attending our **Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>** Syttende Mai celebration will be the Stoughton, WI 2017 Royal Couple.

Jean and Marty Lamers are very proud to call Stoughton their home and are both proud and humbled to be chosen to reign at this year's Syttende Mai Celebration.

Marty's heritage is both Dutch and German but claims to be Norwegian by default through his wife who has strong ties to her Norwegian heritage. Jean, nee Hougan, is a descendent of the original Koshkonong Prairie Norwegian settlers. Her father's family comes from Seljord, a municipality in Telemark County Norway and her mother's family comes from the Gudbrad Valley (Gudbrandsdalen).

Marty learned the electrical trade which led to a partnership at DOC Electric. In 1972 he became a member of the Stoughton Volunteer Fire Department and in 2003 he took on the responsibility as Fire Chief. In 2005 Marty became Stoughton's first full time chief. He retired in 2014 having served SFD for 42 years.

Jean was a stay at home mom with their two children, Robbie and Rachel. She was active in Stoughton schools serving as a volunteer in many capacities. She is an active life-long member of Western Koshkonong Church where she has served as a Sunday school teacher, Treasurer of the Woman's Organization, and along with the entire family helped at many lutefisk dinners. Jean is a member of the Stoughton Festival Choir and served as the music librarian for many years.

Marty has served the community as a Youth Hockey coach, is a member of Stoughton Rotary Club, a recipient of two Paul Harris Fellow's and the President's Citation for "Service Above Self." He is a founding member of the Stoughton EMS, and is a past president of the Dane County Fire Chief's Association.

Both Jean and Marty feel blessed that their family has stayed close so that they are able to spend lots of time with their 5 grandchildren (Riley, Ryan, Ruby, Robby, and Rebecca).

#### **Hardanger Fiddle Association of America: Adult Student Hardingfele Loan Program Application Deadline June 15**

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America now owns three full-size hardingfeler--the "Iversen", the "1904", and the "Poast"--which are available for loan for a one-year period to promising adult or older child/teen students. The Adult Student Hardingfele Loan Committee is now accepting applications for the loan period beginning **July 15, 2017** and ending **July 1, 2018**. Applicants should have previous bowed stringed instrument playing experience, and are required as a condition of the loan to take regularly scheduled lessons with a hardingfele teacher, either in person or via videoconference (Skype). The complete rules and an application form are available on our website at <http://www.hfaa.org/Home/adult-s!tudent-hardingfele-loan-program>. Note that the deadline to apply is **June 15**. Please pass the word!

**Loretta Kelley, President of HFAA - [www.fanitull](http://www.fanitull)**

## Masse Moro Deadline for Lodge Matching Fund Approaching Soon

Camp Masse Moro (Lots of Fun) will be held this summer at Beaver Creek Reserve near Fall Creek, WI from July 16<sup>th</sup> thru July 29<sup>th</sup>. Youth ages 9-15 may attend. It is not necessary for any youth to be a member of the Sons of Norway. For those with family connections, however, there are financial perks. At Vennelag Lodge, we offer scholarships to youth in the amount of \$150.00. District 5 matches our amount, and the Sons of Norway International also contributes a small stipend. With the total cost at \$800.00 for an all-inclusive two week experience, and a \$300.00+ deduction, a family can send their child(ren) to Camp for \$500.00.

Compared to many other summer camps, this is quite a bargain. In order to qualify for these special deductions, *a student must apply for funding by May 17<sup>th</sup>-Syttende Mai!* Notify me of your wishes and I will get the ball rolling ([608-219-4464](tel:608-219-4464))! More information about Camp can be obtained at the [Masse Moro.org](http://MasseMoro.org) website. One can download the Lodge Supporting Grant form from the [sonsofnorway5.com](http://sonsofnorway5.com) website or simply give me a call, and I will make that available to your family!

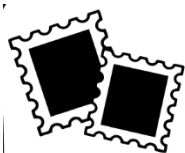
Not only do our kids participate in many sporting events at Camp, they also have the opportunity to choose from projects such as wood-burning, rosemaling, leathercrafts, clay, and creative writing. They may bring their instruments to play, as music is also a vital part of Masse Moro's program. Mythology, language classes, genealogy, and cooking ethnic foods also figure prominently. An observatory and a nature center are also at this location and our students have access to programs presented by astronomers and naturalists whose services are included in their enrollment fee.

But the best aspect of our program is connecting with others who share a passion for their family's ancestry. This year's enrollees are coming from distant parts of our nation, Texas, Washington, D.C., Arizona, and California just to name a few in addition to numerous Midwestern states. This is a perfect time for your youth to network with others in their peer group and to learn more about their family's story. A worthy side note is that our youngest campers now have parents who also attended Camp years ago. How exciting that is!

**DON'T DELAY IN APPLYING FOR Masse Moro;** the 17<sup>th</sup> of May will be here before you know it! Take advantage of this great offering of the 5<sup>th</sup> District of the Sons of Norway. If you would like to know more about Camp, or if you would like to speak to a family whose children attend, please let me know. I can help you make a connection with youth and their parents who strongly believe in this experience.

### **TUBFRIM-**

(From Mary Bennett Tubrim Coordinator for Sons of Norway Districts 1-7)



Tusen takk for your stamps donated to Tubfrim in 2016. Thanks to your efforts, District 5 sent 250 pounds of stamps to Norway. Your help will improve the quality of life for handicapped children and youth in Norway.

Vennelag members may bring trimmed stamps to lodge meetings.

#### Some pointers on clipping stamps:

- 1) Please leave a ¼ in. margin around each stamp.
- 2) Stamp collections are accepted, along with old envelopes, covers, and postcards.
- 3) If envelopes or postcards are more than 50 years old, do not cut the stamp, send the entire item.

For every one pound of stamps, our lodge earns an entry card for a chance to win \$1,000.00 toward a ticket for a trip to Norway.

## Special Celebration in Honor of Midsommer

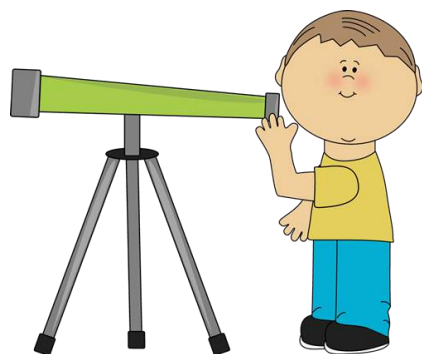


Norwegians and other Scandinavian countries enjoy celebrating the start of summer with an evening bonfire and often singing and dancing on Midsommer evening. The Sons of Norway in Mt Horeb previously celebrated at Little Norway and since that has closed, we've chosen Donald Park for our celebration this year. Instead of a large bonfire, which would not be safe nor appropriate there, we thought that viewing the night sky would be interesting.

We have invited Laurence Mohr, a former Mt. Horeb resident and Vice President of the Madison Astronomical Society to join us for a viewing of the night skies on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Mohr will bring some larger telescopes to aid in viewing. He will speak about the summer constellations and will direct your eye to the correct spot! A rain date of June 29 has been reserved. The sun will set around 8:45 PM that night, so we have

planned some additional activities for your enjoyment before the telescopes become available.

We will be enjoying a 6 PM POTLUCK picnic at Pop's Knoll, just off of Hwy. 92, near the Donald Farm on Hwy. 92. We will conduct a short meeting and will give our members an opportunity to walk the paths of the park before it gets dark. Please bring insect repellent, a light jacket, and a camera for optimal enjoyment of the evening. Families, listening to the creatures of the night and viewing the stars would be quality time spent together. We hope to see YOU there!



### Do you have a change of address?

Please inform us of any change in mailing address or email. You may also make a request to discontinue the printed copy and receive an email notification when the newsletter (*available in color*) is posted on the District Five website ([www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com).) Contact me at:

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Norway, which already boasts the most electric cars per capita, announced in March that electric or hybrid cars represented half of new registrations in the country so far this year.

According to figures from the Road Traffic Information Council (OFV), sales of electric cars accounted for 17.6 percent of new vehicle registrations in January and hybrid cars accounted for 33.8 percent for a combined total of 51.4 percent.

Last year, the government agreed on a proposal to ban the sale of new gasoline and diesel-powered cars starting in 2025.

(Article from Norwegian American, published April 21, 2017)



Vennelag News



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**Next Newsletter Deadline June 22, 2017**



**Pat and Jim Knudson**

New members show their skill at Lefse Making, blessings indeed!



**Harley Skjervem**



**Tom Wulff and Donna Corcoran**