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Jan Flatoff

Cultural Skills Coord.
Karen Trzebiatowski

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Tom Johnson

Trustee (2019-2021)
Milo Harpsted

Trustee (2018-2020)
Mark Hansen, Jr.

Vennligfolk Lodge
meets the second
Sunday evening, 5:00 pm
September thru May
at St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
600 Wilshire Blvd Stevens
Point, WI



Vennligblad



Friendly pages for the 'friendly people' of Vennligfolk and their friends
Sons of Norway Lodge #5-627 for Central Wisconsin
Stevens Point, Whiting, and Plover

Volume 27 Issue 4

JULI OG AUGUST 2020

Fra presidenten:



What incredible members we have in **Vennligfolk Lodge!** When the Portage County Cultural Festival was cancelled this year due to the Covid-

19 crisis, we were not able to have our annual fundraiser. One member suggested having a "No Bake – Bake Sale" to help supplement our funds. Letters were sent to the membership explaining how the "No Bake – Bake Sale" would work. The response was amazing! *Tusen takk* to everyone who donated money to our lodge! So many donated above and beyond what was asked or expected. *I am truly humbled.* With donations of over \$1,200, our treasury is very healthy again. And yes, if you did not get a chance to donate, you can still send a donation to our treasurer, Judy Pesanka.

Our *Midtsommer Gathering* is set for Thursday, August 13th at Carl & Lynn Rasmussen's home. We are going to take precautions to make our first gathering as safe as possible for all attendees. Carl has been receiving documents from the Health Department with recommendations for larger group gatherings. We will inform the membership of how we will implement these precautions before we gather on August 13th. Things may be a bit different, but the safety of all the membership is top priority. I am confident that we can start meeting again and have a great time if we are careful.

So what have all of our **Vennligfolk** members been doing during this "Stay at Home" time?

After I got tired of doing a few "deep" cleaning projects, I started reading some great books. Arno & I played a lot of Mexican Train Dominoes. My brother, Tom (who was our presenter at our January lodge meeting), dug into our family

genealogy and found out that our great grandfather 22 generations ago was King Haakon IV. I let our children and grandchildren know that they are related to a Norwegian King!

When we are in the middle of summer, most people are not thinking about Christmas. For me, this is the time when I start thinking about Christmas and our upcoming Julefest in December. Soon I will be asking for volunteers to serve on the Julefest Committee to help with the planning of our most festive gathering. Please consider being a part of this committee. We are always looking for new ideas and ways to improve our Christmas celebration.

Vennligfolk members, I am looking forward to being with all of you again. Having our *Midtsommer Gathering* in August will be a wonderful kickoff to the start of our new year of **Vennligfolk Lodge** meetings and activities. It's been a very long time of being isolated from friends and family, but we are blessed with the traits of our hardy ancestors. As Tom Johnson wrote in our last Vennligblad issue, "Vee are Vikings, and vee can take it." See you soon.

*Vennlig hilsen,
Susan Morton*

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

Juli

Arno Morton – 1

July 4

Glenn Aavang – 31

July						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

Rosy Paulson - 4

Tom Johnson – 4

Carl Lemke - 4

Jen Haas - 8

Lois Alfsen – 9

Kathy Clucas - 11

Ron Hensler - 15

Bill Beversdorf - 17

Karen Trzebiatowski - 18

Rita Johnson - 21

Jan Flatoff – 27

Jennifer Lemke - 27

August						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???

August 13 (Thursday) Midtsommer Gathering Join us for a “deserts only” pie and ice-cream social at our re-scheduled Midtsommer. The outdoor event at Carl & Lynn Rasmussen’s on McDill Pond **begins at 6 PM**. To keep our gathering simple and the conversations flowing, Lodge Officers will provide a variety of pie deserts along with beverages. Catch up with fellow Lodge members around a traditional birch-log fire or a game of Kubb. Planned Viking explorer boat rides though needed to be cancelled. To reach the Rasmussen’s at 3136 Dans Drive, Stevens Point, take Heffron Street east from Post Road and then turn left on Dans Drive to the 6th house. Watch for an “**All-Lodge email**” in early August for further details or schedule changes. Rain date August 15, also at 6 PM.



Lodge Programs for Fall:



September 13, 2020 (Sunday) 5PM: “Our 2019 Norwegian Experience” Cindy and Mark Kluck will describe their “dream-come-true” 4-week trip to Norway complete with cozy visits with 26 cousins; fun surprises; stops at ancestral homes; and thrilling scenery

October 11, 2020 (Sunday) 5PM Program To be determined



November 8, 2020 (Sunday) 5PM “Scandinavian Happiness”

Year after year the Danes, Finns, Swedes, Norwegians, and Icelanders, rank among the happiest folks in the world. Dr. Richard Ruppel, UWSP Emeritus Professor of World Languages and Literature will explore what these cultures have or do that produces this “happiness” and what we might learn from them.

December 13, 2020 (Sunday) Julefest 5PM at St Pauls UMC

Norwegian Royal Palace Treasure Buried In WWII

During World War II, the Norwegian royal family hastily abandoned the royal palace as Hitler’s army began its invasion of Norway. Although the family managed to flee to safety, they left behind many precious belongings, including the royal jewels.



Two years later, a Nazi collaborator named Vidkun Quisling took great interest in the royal palace and the abandoned treasures inside. However, upon entering the castle, he discovered the valuables were missing.

Fortunately, Carl Otto Løvenskiold, head of the royal court, had decided to safeguard the royal jewelry when the monarchs fled. In the middle of an April night, he went to the palace and packed the jewels into five large suitcases. He took them to his family’s cabin, deep in the forest near Oslo, and buried them under the woodshed. The jewels remained hidden there for five years.

When the war ended in 1945, Løvenskiold returned the royal jewelry back to the palace. His efforts earned him The Royal St. Olav’s Order and a personal thank-you letter from the king.



No-Bake Bake Sale Results

The results of Venligfolk's "**No Bake Bake Sale**" are in and members cooked up a storm! A total of 36 member units (couples/individuals; over 80%!) contributed \$1,260 to support Lodge activities and helped cushion this year's revenue loss due to the cancellation of Cultural Fest. Your generous donations are most appreciated. Members who would still like to make a donation please mail them to: **Treasurer Judy Pesanka, 1221 Ashwood Drive, Plover, WI 54467**. Judy reports that as of June 25 the lodge account had a current balance of \$3,770.61.

Coming soon: Viking for Kids!

Sons of Norway is thrilled to announce the launch of a new electronic publication, **Viking for Kids!** Featuring a variety of content such as



Scandinavian-inspired articles, puzzles, quizzes, coloring pages and other activities, the new Viking for Kids is produced entirely by Sons of Norway staff for readers ages 8 to 14. It will be

published quarterly and available to heritage members for download from sofn.com starting in August 2020. Long time members should remember this popular printed publication and sharing it with children and grandchildren.

Fish on the grill - Serves: 4

Source: <https://www.food.com/recipe/grilled-fish-in-foil-6919>

Ingredients

- 1 lb. fish fillet (fresh or frozen)
- 2 Tbsp. margarine or butter
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp. parsley, chopped
- 1 tsp. dill
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- paprika
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced



Recipe:

- On 4 large buttered squares of heavy-duty aluminum foil, place equal amounts of fish.
- In small saucepan, melt margarine; add lemon juice, parsley, dill, salt and pepper.
- Pour equal amounts over fish.
- Sprinkle with paprika; top with onion slices.
- Wrap foil securely around fish, leaving space for fish to expand.
- Grill 5 to 7 minutes on each side or until fish flakes with fork.

Refrigerate leftovers (if there are any!)

Norway's Surf Scene Rocks!



Surfing is classically associated with tropical islands and sunny California, but recently an unlikely new hotspot has emerged: the frigid waters of northern Norway. As wetsuit insulation technology

has advanced over the past decade, it has opened up new possibilities for thrill-seeking surfers to revel in the icy waves and rugged beauty of the Norwegian Sea.

In years past, early Nordic surfers improvised their own protection from the cold by soaking wool sweaters in oil and duct-taping rain gear and dishwashing gloves to their bodies. They also coated their skin in petroleum jelly for added insulation from the cold water. By contrast, today's modern wet suits are warm, flexible, and lightweight offering a completely different experience—some even including battery-powered heaters!

More than 100 miles above the Arctic Circle, Norway's Lofoten Islands are home to the world's northernmost surf competition. Elsewhere in Norway, a growing number of enthusiasts—including Norway's royal family—are braving the chill to catch waves beneath the northern lights or midnight sun.

Milo Harpstead Donates Land to UW-Stevens Point

Vennligfolk Past-President, Milo Harpstead recently donated a 22-acre parcel of farmland to UW-Stevens Point. His generous gift was described in **The Cupola Post**, a publication of the UWSP Alumni Association. The Harpstead farm located on Hillcrest Road near Polonia has been the site of previous Vennligfolk gatherings. Excerpts of the April 28, 2020 article by Jeanne Nagle follows:

The parcel of land, has quite a history. Ages ago, it was the glacial birthplace of an ice-walled lake bed, the remnants of which form a flat-topped hill and one of the highest features in Portage County. In the first half of the 20th century, the acreage was part of a working farm. In 1961, newly hired College of Natural Resources faculty member Dr. Milo Harpstead took a group of students to soil samples from a ditch along the land's northern boundary. Thirteen years later, Harpstead bought the 60-acre farm from which his students had been collecting samples and officially transformed the 22-acre plot into a soil sciences field laboratory!

On April 1 this year (no fooling!), Milo deeded this portion of his farm to the UWSP Foundation. The land, will "be managed by and for the benefit of the College of Natural Resources" and, "henceforth shall be known as **Milo Acres**."

Harpstead expects the college and university to continue using the land for soil-science research and experimentation, as it has been for decades. But he also would like to see the scope of the land's use expand to include "any field of natural resources and earth science."

"It can be a field laboratory for forestry, wildlife, waste management, water science, cartography, geology, etc." he says.

Although he grew up on a farm, Milo never had aspirations of becoming a gentleman farmer when he and his wife, Ruth, purchased the property. Early on they rented a portion of the acreage to a fellow UWSP professor who grew Christmas trees and nursery stock sold across the country. Additional acreage was rented to a neighbor, who rotates corn and alfalfa there to this day

Instead of raising crops, Harpstead elected to work the soil in a different way. Engaging students via field trips is a concept he traces back to his graduate school days as a master's candidate teaching assistant at South Dakota State University, as well as an instructor working on his Ph.D. at



the University of Minnesota. He continued the field trip tradition when he came to UWSP, helping students take advantage of the wealth of information to be gleaned from

sampling the glacial moraine that naturally occurs only miles from the UWSP campus. The goal of such an exercise is to help students "interpret soil maps for any use wherever they may be in the world, once they become aware of their local conditions," Milo says.

Since retiring from UWSP in 1992, Harpstead has continued to welcome students onto the land for field study. Stephen Menzel, UWSP senior director of development with CNR, estimates that, over the years, more than 11,000 soil science students have benefitted from using the land as a lab.

"The land ... has brought much enjoyment to our family," he says.

At age 90, Harpstead keeps busy maintaining the homestead portion of the farm, which he still owns. "I value my boyhood experience on the farm," he says, "and I enjoy working with tractors, the mowing equipment and the snow removal in the winter. The buildings include a well-kept timber barn, which has become a relic of agriculture as it used to be." Antique cars and tractors, which Harpstead restores, are housed in the farm's barn and other outbuildings.

Now Harpstead feels the time has come to share the joy by donating the undeveloped field that, in a way, generations of CNR soil scholars have come to think of as their own.

"I was privileged to play a lead role in the development of the Soil Science program, so that our graduates could qualify for employment as soil scientists and soil conservationists with the USDA," Harpstead notes proudly. "I feel that the opportunity to train young minds was so rewarding that I should give something back as I face old age looming before me."

Norway's Top Five Fjords

Widely ranked among the world's top travel destinations, the fjords of Norway attract thousands of tourists every year. Norway is home to over 1,000 fjords—long, narrow inlets where sea meets land, with deep water surrounded by steep cliffs. Here is a ranking of Norway's top five fjords that are frequented by cruise ships and have become popular spots for hiking, camping and adventure.



1 Nordfjord: One of Norway's popular cruise ship destinations. The waterway passes some of Norway's wildest coastline flanked by cliffs featuring scenic walking paths, ski trails, beaches and glaciers.

2 Sognefjord: Norway's longest, deepest fjord splits the fjord country in two. Known for its epic, picturesque beauty, it offers visitors an incredible experience.

3 Trollfjord: Its narrow, 100-meter, entrance and steep-sided mountains, and referenced in Norwegian art & literature makes Trollfjord one of Norway's most spectacular fjords.

4 Nærøvfjord: A popular recreational spot with greenery and waterfalls. One can kayak or hike along this narrow arm of the Sognefjord, or visit the quiet village of Flåm.

5 Geirangerfjord: Norway's most famous fjord, it is known for its steep sides, snowy mountain peaks and spectacular views of cascading waterfalls, lush plant life, and ancient farmlands.

There's a fjord for everyone in Norway, with plenty of activities to make your travel experience unforgettable!

Vennligfolk Cultural Skills



Cultural Skills Coordinator, Karen Trzebiatowski says staying "Safer at Home" does not have to mean neglecting progress on mastering personal cultural skills. As members complete projects at home remember to leave just a little extra time to fill out the documentation and earn your nifty Cultural Skill pin recognition!

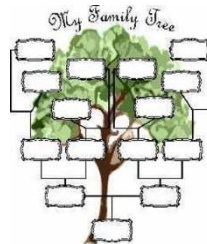
Documentation forms can be found at the Sons of Norway website: www.sofn.com.

Once on the main page lodge members will need to log-in (or create a name and password if you have not previously logged in.) From there navigate to "Member Resources" then "Cultural Programming" and scroll down and select "Cultural Skills Program." There you will find information on each of the 14 skill areas, forms and in some cases, links to helpful YouTube videos.

Questions? You can always reach out to Karen at 715-824-7679 or send an email to: Karentrzeb@gmail.com. Karen also has access to forms.

Join the fun and see what you've been missing!

Anyone with **Genealogy** questions can reach out to the group leader, Mark Hansen at 715-498-4155. New folks are always welcome.



Chip Carving



Rogaland Rosemaling

**Introducing: Karen & Jerry
Trzebiatowski**
**May-December: Our Norwegian
Heritage Brought Us Together.**
by Karen Trzebiatowski



In 1989 Jerry worked providing home health care for my husband David who was a quad and on a ventilator after a fall on the tennis court. Jerry was a college student then and had planned on working with David all summer. However, David died June 1st, 30 years ago. Out of a job Jerry shifted gears to be a handyman for me, putting walls and closets back together, removing ramps and walkways, etc. At the time Jerry explained how he did not know much about his Norwegian heritage except for lefsa, oyster stew, and rice pudding. I helped his interest in all things Norwegian to grow. From there, we began realizing all the other things we enjoyed in common. We have now been married 28 years and did a lot of traveling in that time.

I was born in Iowa, but when I was five my mother died and Daddy got tuberculosis eight months later. Unable to care for me, I was sent to live with my mother's oldest sister and her Norwegian family in Wisconsin. My aunt had kept in contact with her mother's family in Norway and in 1958 we spent three months visiting most of our cousins. Grandmother's brother, Uncle Sever, died two weeks before we arrived but his wife was still living. At that time, she had 28 cousins and I had 88 second cousins! I am still in contact with many of them today. I can trace my dad's family back to the Mayflower.

Jerry grew up in Nelsonville, where we now live. He left when he was 18 to join the Army and was stationed for two years in Germany. This gave him the travel bug and an interest in cultures and heritage hence our common interest. Our best trip was six weeks in Norway in 2005.

Those of you who have been to our house know it is sort of a Norwegian museum in the downstairs. But we love all things from our heritages: Norwegian, Swedish, Polish, German and a little English. Over the years, we have tried to learn as many Norwegian food preparations and craft things as possible. This is where we are so grateful for our Sons of Norway connection and Vesterheim classes to help us stay interested.

Looking forward to seeing all of our Vennligfolk friends soon, Karen T.

Jerry adds: While teaching my woodshop class at Rawhide Boys Ranch, I must have been complaining about something during a one on one exchange with a sixth-grade student. Perhaps I had been venting about the inadequacies of the goings on and the people around me. This sixth-grade boy look up at me and stated in all seriousness, "Mr. Jerry, I think you have issues with being antisocial." I have reflected on that statement a lot since then and realize how easy it is to get stuck in a rut or on a path that leads to a self-centered and/or an isolated type of attitude and lifestyle. Thinking about my Norwegian and Polish heritage and what my ancestors did to live, survive, and how they depended on their communities brings me out of that thought process. Sons of Norway and all of its programs along with the social events here in our local chapter has helped me to return to a state of "unantisocialness." I know you ask, "is that a word?" Well, it is a word because I said it is, and you cannot change my mind. Just kidding! I appreciate all of our lodge members and thank you for helping to carry on the tradition of community that blesses me now as it blessed our ancestors more than a century ago as they immigrated here.

From the Editor: Over the next year we'll look to do articles on both new and long-term members. Lodge members are asked to submit short introduction articles on their own or kindly respond when asked.

Tusen Takk, Carl R. Editor



Latest from Finland

Because of the Covid virus Finland has closed their borders. That means no one will be crossing the Finnish line.

The World Health Organization has determined that dogs cannot contract Covid-19. Dogs previously being held in quarantine are to be released. Just to be clear, **WHO** let the dogs out.

VENNLIGBLAD

Looking for a past edition or article of Vennligblad?

Editions back to November 2017 are available at SON District 5 website:

www.sonsofnorway5.com/

Select the **Lodges tab**, scroll to "Vennligfolk,"
Select: "**MORE INFO**"



a little in English... Record number of students want to be nurses since pandemic

As many as 8.7 percent more people have applied for higher education this year. Now during the pandemic, almost every tenth applicant wants to become a nurse.

“This makes me happy,” says the head of the Norwegian Nursing Association Lill Sverresdatter Larsen to forskning.no.

“Nurses are needed more than ever and there is a shortage of nurses both nationally and internationally. Nurses have proven to be tough as nails now that the profession has become even harder in recent weeks.”

Coronavirus crisis underscores the health professions

Pia Cecilie Bing-Jonsson, the Vice Dean for Education at the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences at the University of Southeast Norway, believes that the high application numbers for health professions may be a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

“Nurses and other health workers have been in focus during the crisis and we can see that this leads to more people wanting to follow these lines of study. At the same time, many people now lack work and see that nurses and other health professions can offer fairly secure jobs in the future.”

Many applied at the last minute

Something different about admissions this year is that as many as 24,702 applicants submitted their application at the last minute, that is, on the day of the deadline. There were 10,000 more than last year.



At Samordna [the Norwegian Universities and Colleges Admission Service], this is interpreted to mean that far more people now wish to have a plan B by seeking higher education in Norway. This year, applicants could choose from a total of 1,303 different studies at 27 universities and colleges.

litt på norsk... Rekordmange vil bli sykepleiere under koronapandemien



Rekordmange vil bli sykepleiere under koronapandemien. Hele 8,7 prosent flere har søkt høyere utdanning i år. Nå under pandemien vil nesten hver tiende søker bli sykepleier.

– Dette gleder meg, sier leder i Norsk Sykepleierforbund Lill Sverresdatter Larsen til forskning.no

– Sykepleierne trengs mer enn noen gang og det er mangel på sykepleiere både nasjonalt og internasjonalt. Sykepleierne har vist seg beintøffe nå når yrket har blitt enda tøffere de siste ukene.

Koronakrisen viser fram helseyrkene

Pia Cecilie Bing-Jonsson, visedekan for utdanning ved Fakultet for helse- og sosialvitenskap på Universitetet i Sørøst-Norge, tror at de høye søkertallene til helseyrkene kan være et resultat av koronapandemien.

– Sykepleiere og andre helsearbeidere har stått i fokus under krisen og det ser vi kan føre til at flere ønsker å ta slike utdanninger. Samtidig er det nå mange som mangler arbeid og flere ser at sykepleier og andre helseyrker kan tilby ganske sikre arbeidsplasser i framtiden.

Mange har søkt i siste liten

Noe spesielt med opptaket i år er at hele 24 702 søkere sendte inn søknaden sin i siste liten, det vil si på den aller siste fristdagen. Det var 10 000 flere enn i fjor.

Hos Samordna opptak tolker man dette som at langt flere enn tidligere ønsker å ha en plan B ved å søke høyere utdanning i Norge.

Søkere kunne i år velge mellom hele 1303 ulike studier ved 27 universiteter og høyskoler.

Excerpted from: <https://forskning.no/utdanning-virus/rekordmange-vil-bli-sykepleiere-og-leger-under-koronapandemien/1675604>

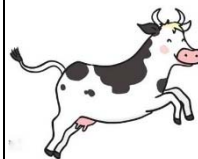
Some words just don't translate easily:

Friluftsliv: Norwegian concept of going outside and experiencing nature.

Gluggavedur: Icelandic word for the kind of winter weather that's "nice to look at through a window."

Hoppilankalle: Swedish word for the person who hops from a boat to dock it.

Poronkusema: Finnish word for the maximum distance a reindeer can travel before it needs to pee. (Hint: It's a little under 5 miles!)



Okodag: In Denmark locals observe "Dancing Cow Day" as dairy cows come out of their barns and jump for joy upon being released for the first time onto a fresh spring meadow.

Thanks to www.universalyums.com April 2020



Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627
 Carl Rasmussen, Editor
 3136 Dans Ave
 Stevens Point, WI 54481 USA



SAVE THE DATES!
 Thursday, August 13, 2020
Midtsummer Gathering
 Rasmussen's on McDill Pond


Sunday, Sept 13, 2020
Our 2019 Norwegian Experience
 Cindy and Mark Kluck


The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.

Vennligblad, the official newsletter of Sons of Norway's Vennligfolk Lodge (#5-627), is published at the beginning of the odd-numbered months of the year. If you have an item of interest to Vennligfolk members, please submit it to the Editor by the 15th of the even-numbered months. You may send it to Carl Rasmussen at 3136 Dans Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by e-mail addressed to: Vennligblad@gmail.com
Mange Tusen Takk, Carl Rasmussen, Editor



Support Tubfrim. As you receive mail with postage stamps, cut the postage off leaving a ¼ inch boarder of paper. Bring your stamps to the next regular Vennligfolk meeting.



Like Vennligfolk on Facebook! 

Search for **@sofnvennligfolk**; or, **SOFN #5-627 Vennligfolk Lodge** on Facebook. Click "Like" and "Follow". If you need help Lodge members Kathy Clucas and Patricia Serio are willing to help you get going

Build a Buzz: Let Others Know How Much You Enjoy Membership!

Do you LOVE rosemaling, making lefse, enjoying Nordic music and dance, or celebrating other aspects of Norwegian culture & heritage through your Sons of Norway membership? Then spread these honey-sweet words and get nonmembers buzzing to join the fun! Help our lodge and Sons of Norway family grow in 2020! Recruit a new member in 2020 and receive a fine Recruiter Pin from Sons of Norway



Pam Fleishauer, March 8 meeting