



April, May, June 2016

Upcoming Events

All meetings are at the Blair Community Center unless indicated otherwise

April 23, 2016, 1:00

Jerry and Karen Trzebratowski

Carving and Needlework

Servers: Sonia & Lonnie Manske and Byron & Marlys Britten

May 13, 2016 - Grand View Program - 1:30

May 15, 2016 10:00 - 1:00

***Frokost* at the Blair Community Center**

May 29, 2016 - Parade at Arcadia Broiler Days

June 5, 2016 - Parade at Taylor Old Fashioned Days

June 23, 2016 6:30

***Fyrbal* at Blair Park Potluck Meal**

July 10, 2016 - Parade at Trempealeau Catfish Days

Celebrating your Heritage as a Family

Is your family looking for a way to spend quality time together that celebrates your Norwegian heritage? You're in luck: there are several options available for you from Sons of Norway. Whether you want to get the family dancing or are interested in Sámi culture, there is nearly something for every family get together. Let's look at some of the ways you can turn family time this spring into Norsk family time!

An excellent place to begin with is the Family Matters section of *Viking* magazine. What makes this resource so great are the suggested activities available for kids of all ages. Take the Family Matters edition, the Celebrating Sámi from the February *Viking*. In it you'll find sample activities for kids from preschool all the way to teenagers. It also provides resources to take learning beyond the pages of the magazine and onto the internet and into books that will add depth to understanding the Sámi or one of the other topics. These include exploring genealogy, folk dancing, chip carving and more.

Speaking of folk dancing, did you know that Sons of Norway has a cultural skills program specifically designed for children? Through the youth Cultural Skills Program, your kids or grandkids can explore figure carving, knitting or one of the other Norwegian crafts. Best of all, they'll receive a pin from Sons of Norway Headquarters as a reward for their hard work. The youth cultural skills are also a great opportunity for kids to segue into many of the adult Cultural Skills programs, potentially kicking off a lifelong interest in their Norwegian roots.

The last option for family programming is the Sports Medal Program. We all know that Norwegians are renowned for their love of the outdoors and springtime provides ample opportunities to explore the outdoors. Whether it's skiing or walking in your neck of the woods, the Sports Medal Program gives your family the chance to earn medals for getting outside and kickstarting a healthy lifestyle.

If you're interested in any of these programs you can learn more by visiting the Members Section of the Sons of Norway website or by contacting Joe Eggers, Membership Coordinator at membership@sofn.com.

PARADE SEASON WILL START SOON! Arcadia Broiler Days on May 29th; Taylor Old Fashioned Days on June 5th; Trempealeau Catfish Days on July 10th; Ettrick Fun Days on August 28th; and Blair Cheese Fest on September 18th.

a little in English...Wedding Gifts That Disappeared

The ancient Norwegian tradition survived until the mid-1800s before it became illegal. Herleik Baklid has investigated sagas, kings' letters, wills, court records, legal documents and old laws to find traces of a certain Norwegian wedding tradition, namely bridal gifts. Baklid has found evidence that this practice dates back to the 1100s. Folk traditions survived the church's marriage traditions and were kept alive until the mid-1800s, when a new Norwegian law abolished the rights the bride had to these gifts.

Widow's Insurance When we think of wedding gifts today, we tend to think of kitchenware, silverware and gorgeous designer items that the happy couple receives from friends and family on the big day. But in the Middle Ages the gifts had an entirely different purpose. To understand the idea behind these gifts, it is important to understand why people got married in the past. Economic reasons stood behind the couple's union, for the most part. Throughout history, it turns out that the groom often gave one or more traditional gifts to the bride. "The bride could take out these gifts if she became a widow. The basic principle behind these gifts was that she would be secure if her husband died," Baklid tells forskning.no. "This was a society without government aid. Therefore the groom and his future in-laws were responsible for providing the bride with economic security," he continued. Throughout history there have been three different categories of gifts that the bride got from her husband-to-be. Probably only a few people have heard of festegaven (the engagement gift) and benkegaven (the bunk gift), while morgengaven (the morning gift) lives on. Baklid has found all three of these extending far back into Norwegian history.

Strengthening the Agreement Marriage during the Norwegian medieval period until the end of the 1700 and 1800s was primarily an economic affair. The marriage was generally agreed upon between the bride and groom's family. When this agreement or betrothal was settled, the future married couple was referred to as betrothed, better known today as engaged. Immediately the flow of gifts started from the future groom. "The betrothal gift was given at the engagement. This was a gift that would strengthen the marriage arrangement," explains Baklid. The gift could be anything from silver spoons, silver jugs and jewelry, to land. The bride was entitled to cash in all of this should she become a widow.

Entertainment and humor Before the actual ceremony, the groom had to promise gifts that would convince the bride to leave her parents. This was often negotiated between the various parties on the bride's and groom's behalf, how the bride would "be released from the bunk", i.e. stop sleeping in a bed at her parents. Hence the name of the second traditional gift: benkegave or bunk gift. A bunk gift can most likely be connected to bride purchasing, an even older tradition. Simply put: the gift says what the groom is willing to pay for his future wife. This gift could consist of anything from a horse and saddle to jewelry and property.

One last gift at dawn The morning after her wedding night, the bride received a final gift from the groom. This is what we know today as morgengaven, the morning gift, which is the oldest of the three gift practices. "The morning gift can be traced through the Germans all the way back to the Roman Empire," says Baklid. This gift could consist of so many things. For example Knud Nielsen from Tinn in Telemark gave Helge Torgrimsdatter among other things a horse, a saddle, three animal pelts and 120 thalers as a bunk gift and morning gift. In higher classes, such as among the royals, the morning gift could be property.

Removed by law But after the 1800s, the traditions began to eventually die out. There were several reasons for this. What may surprise most is that Baklid has not found evidence that the church opposed these traditions. "These were gifts that had a clear practical-economic function that didn't actually come into conflict with church teachings about marriage," he explains. But the Norwegian laws that gave the widow legal claim to the gifts were removed in 1854. Part of the reason may have been because they could cause problems in litigation. Extended inheritance would instead compensate for the valuables she lost. Something else that might explain the tradition's demise is the notion that you married one another out of love, and not for economic considerations. But before they disappeared completely, the gifts took a slightly different turn.

“The bunk gift continued as a form of entertainment for a few decades, before going away. Betrothal gifts changed style, into more personal gifts, such as a hymnal or a watch,” says Baklid. Finally the face of marriage had changed so much that there was no longer room for the old customs. “Marriage was seen as an economic matter until the end of the 1700s, but after that, the romantic ideal came into play,” said Baklid.

Traces in today's society Old Norwegian traditions still have a tendency to creep into our modern society. It does not take much to see that we still partially practice our ancestors' ancient customs. “The bunk gift disappeared, but the morning gift on the other hand, has sprouted up again. Although betrothal gifts disappeared around 1870, engagement rings came into practice,” says Baklid. “The symbolism is perhaps a little different now; the gifts are supposed to express love and aren't supposed to provide financial security in the event of widowhood,” he added.

litt på norsk...Bryllupsgavene som forsvant

Den eldgamle norske tradisjonen overlevde helt fram til midten av 1800-tallet før den ble ulovlig. Herleik Baklid har gransket sagaer, kongebrev, testamenter, rettsprotokoller, skrifteprotokoller og gamle lover for å finne spor etter en bestemt norsk bryllupstradisjon. Nemlig brudegavene. Baklid har funnet tegn til denne skikken helt tilbake til 1100-tallet. Folketradisjonen overlevde kirkens egne ekteskapstradisjoner og ble holdt i live helt fram til midten av 1800-tallet, da en ny norsk lov avskaffet retten bruden hadde på gavene.

Enkeforsikring Når vi tenker på bryllupsgaver i dag, tenker vi gjerne på kjøkkenutstyr, sølvtøy og lekre designvarer som det lykkelige paret får av venner og familie på den store dagen. Men i middelalderen hadde gavene et helt annet formål. Men for å forstå tanken bak disse gavene er det viktig å forstå hvorfor folk giftet seg før i tiden. Stort sett lå det nemlig økonomiske hensikter bak parets union. Gjennom historien viser det seg at brudgommen ofte har gitt én eller flere tradisjonelle gaver til bruden.

– Disse gavene kunne bruden ta ut dersom hun ble enke. Det lå som et grunnleggende prinsipp bak disse gavene at hun skulle sikres dersom mannen falt fra, forteller Baklid til forskning.no. – Dette var et samfunn uten offentlige støtteordninger. Derfor var det brudgommen og hans fremtidige svigerforeldres ansvar å skaffe bruden økonomisk sikkerhet, fortsetter han. Opp gjennom historien har det vært tre ulike kategorier for gavene bruden fikk av sin kommende ektemann. Festegaven og benkegaven er det nok få som har hørt om. Mens morgengaven lever videre i beste velstand. Alle de tre variantene finner Baklid igjen langt tilbake i norsk historie.

Styrket avtalen Ekteskap i norsk middelalder og fram til slutten av 17- og 1800-tallet var altså først og fremst en økonomisk affære. Ekteskapet ble som regel avtalt mellom bruden og brudgommens slekt. Da avtalen, eller festemålet, var i boks, ble det fremtidige ekteparet omtalt som festefolk, bedre kjent som forloveder i dag. Allerede nå begynner gavedrysset fra den kommende brudgom. – Festegaven ble gitt ved festemålet. Dette var en gave som skulle styrke avtalen om ekteskap, forklarer Baklid. Gaven kunne være alt fra sølvskjeer, sølvkanner og smykker til jordeiendom. Alt dette hadde bruden krav på å få utbetalt dersom hun skulle bli enke.

Underholdning og humor Før selve vielsen måtte brudgommen komme med løfter om gaver som skulle overbevise bruden om å reise fra foreldrene sine. Dette ble ofte forhandlet fram mellom ulike parter på bruden og brudgommens vegne, hvor bruden skulle «løses fra benken», altså slutte å sove i sengen hos foreldrene sine. Derav navnet på den andre tradisjonelle gaven: benkegave. Benkegaven kan mest sannsynlig koples til brudekjøp, en enda eldre tradisjon. Enkelt sagt: gaven sier hva brudgommen er villig til å betale for sin fremtidige kone. Denne gaven kunne bestå av alt fra hest og sal til smykker og eiendom.

En siste gave ved daggry Morgenens etter bryllupsnatten fikk bruden den siste gaven fra brudgommen. Dette er det vi kjenner også i dag som morgengaven, som er den eldste av de tre gaveskikkene. – Morgengaven kan spores blant germanerne helt tilbake til Romerriket, sier Baklid. Denne gaven kunne bestå av så mangt. For eksempel gav Knud Nielsen fra Tinn i Telemark, Helge Torgrimsdatter blant annet en hest, en sal, tre skinnfeller og 120 riksdaler i benkegave og morgengave. I høyere klasser, som for eksempel blant de kongelige kunne morgengaven være eiendom.

Fjernet fra loven Men utpå 1800-tallet begynte tradisjonene etter hvert å dø ut. Det var det flere grunner til. Det som kanskje overrasker mest er at Baklid ikke har funnet bevis på at kirken motarbeidet disse tradisjonene. – Det var gaver som hadde en klar praktisk-økonomisk funksjon som egentlig ikke kom i konflikt med kirkens lære om ekteskapet, forklarer han. Men de norske lovene som gav enken rettslige krav på gavene ble fjernet i 1854. Noe av årsaken kan ha vært fordi de kunne skape krøll i rettsaker. Utvidet arverett skulle i stedet kompensere for de verdiene hun mistet. Noe annet som kan forklare tradisjonenes bortgang, er forestillingen om at man giftet seg med hverandre av kjærlighet, og ikke av økonomiske hensyn. Men før gavene forsvant helt, fikk de en litt annen vri. – Benkegaven fortsatte som et underholdningsinnslag noen tiår etter, før de falt bort. Festegavene endret karakter til mer personlige gaver, som for eksempel en salmebok eller ei klokke, sier Baklid. Til slutt hadde synet på ekteskap endret seg såpass mye at

det ikke lenger var plass til de gamle skikkene. – Ekteskapet ble sett på som et økonomisk anliggende fram til slutten av 1700-tallet, men så kommer det romantiske idealet inn, sier Baklid.

Spor i dagens samfunn Gamle norske tradisjoner har likevel en tendens til å snike seg inn i vårt moderne samfunn. Det skal ikke mye til for å se at vi fortsatt delvis praktiserer våre forfedres gamle skikker. – Benkegaven har forsvunnet, men morgengaven har jo derimot blusset opp igjen. Selv om festegaven forsvant rundt 1870, kom forlovelsesringer inn i stedet, forteller Baklid. – Symbolikken er kanskje en litt annen, nå skal de uttrykke kjærlighet og ikke nødvendigvis sikre en eventuell enke, fortsetter han.

<http://forskning.no/historie/2015/10/et-gavedryss-med-baktanker>

PAST HAPPENINGS AT FAGERNES LODGE.



Pictures from January 2016 meeting: New officers, the Norwegian Singers, and Jescey Thompson reading his essay.



Sports medal winners at Drugan's in February 2016; LaVern and Ruby Henderson and Roger Instenes at Drugan's; Sandy Iverson of Solvange Lodge presenting her program on Erling Storrusten, the "Potato Spy" in Norway during World War II.

President's Message

Fra Presidenten,
Hilsen Venner, ..

God Paske!!! That was yesterday----hopefully you had a fine day. A bit cloudy but warm enough to melt our snowbunny that the family constructed. Spring has sprung and the flowers are a sproutin'. Also the political rhetoric. Foul spoutin' as far as I'm concerned. Sorry we weren't at our last two gatherings. Family commitments and visiting friends out East. Michigan, Vermont and Brooklyn.

We viewed Vermont's sugaring processes at two visits...photos-interesting (note sap is being collected by tubing that empties into a barrel along with traditional buckets hanging on the trees)!! Viewed Okemo ski Area in Vermont. ..They had snow but it was raining the day we were there...so no skiing for me!! They had a six person chairlift!!!. Wow!!!



Now we look forward to our Spring activities. (Thank you all for your part in our meetings we missed by the way.) We look forward to our Frokost at Syttende Mai as well as choosing a new King and Queen for 2016. We will see the beginning of our Parade Season at the Arcadia Broiler-Dairy Days on May 29th. I will respond to the Arcadia Lions Club request for parade participation..We hope to have our Viking Ship float in ship-shape for the seasons parades. More on parades will be mentioned in the Newsletter that follows.

Hopefully we can introduce new people to our lodge so we can grow to provide more community involvement. Maybe we can learn new tricks as some of us attend the District SON Convention in Marshfield this summer. Each member should try to bring one new recruit to a meeting so they can see what we do. Perhaps present members can sponsor a new recruit at our Frokost..in other words buy them a breakfast to see how we enjoy our gatherings.

So, there you are for now.

Hjetelig hilsen i fra,

Todd

(Heart felt greetings from...Todd.)

<p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY!</p> <p>Due to privacy concerns, only the month is listed.</p> <p>April</p> <p>Julia Berg, Judy Bleken, Kassandra Dobson, Keoinia Dobson, Rafael Hanson,</p>	<p>Gavin Instenes, Jescey Thompson, Eileen Trim, Marty Zubke</p> <p>May</p> <p>Laura Dobson, Fern Galstad, Jack Hardiman, Fran Instenes, Elijah Jacobs, Virginia Ronning,</p>	<p>Victor Volkman, Will Volkman, Leland Wier</p> <p>June</p> <p>Henry Fetsch, James Hovre, Lynn Thompson</p>
--	--	---

Syttende Mai Bake Sale and Frokost

Blair Community Center 10:00 - 1:00, May 15, 2016

We will need workers for the event, and especially, baked goods for the sale! Sign up at the April meeting. Please package and price your baked goods

The committee consists of Fran Instenes, Terry Thompson, and LaVonne Wier

Menu and price for the Frokost will be decided at the April meeting.

Lodge members are encouraged to participate in the Frokost and bring baked goods for sale. People who don't bake can help by supplying needed items for the Frokost.

The Recruitment Challenge is Back!

Throughout the year, Sons of Norway Headquarters is putting your lodge to the test to see if you've got what it takes to be the best recruiting lodge in the organization. Like in the past though, it's all about net-growth so keeping members is just as important as getting new ones.

For more information about the 2016 Recruitment Challenge, log onto www.sonsofnorway.com/challenge or contact Joe Eggers, Membership Coordinator at membership@sofn.com.

Your Financial Benefits Counselor is Tom Kunkel. Contact him at tomkunkel2004@yahoo.com, or call 1-844-233-7667. He'd be happy to talk to you!

Save your printer cartridges and bring them to LaVonne. We get \$2.00 credit for each cartridge at Office Depot to use toward new cartridges

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Eddie and Lynn Thompson became great-grandparents again on March 12, 2016. Everett Joseph McDonald was born to Mike and Abby (Hughes) McDonald of Fort Collins, Colorado. Congratulations!

Ella Britten, granddaughter of Byron & Marlys Britten, will attend Masse Moro again this year.

Roger & Fran Instenes received news that their daughter, Melissa, and her husband, Bert, of Florida are expecting their second child this fall.

FOCUS ON A FAGERNES LODGE MEMBER: OOPS! I again didn't receive a submission in time to feature a member for this newsletter. Tune in next time. There'll for sure be someone in the next issue to read about!

Stein Eriksen: Skiing Icon

Legendary skier Stein Eriksen passed away in late December at the age of 88. An internationally known and beloved figure, Eriksen accomplished much during his lifetime, earning not only Olympic and World Championship gold medals but glowing praise and admiration for his infinite contributions to the sport of skiing.

An athlete from an early age, Eriksen began his competitive skiing career as one of the top slalom racers in Norway. After collecting a bronze medal for slalom in the 1950 World Championships, Eriksen went on to become the first male alpine skiing Olympic champion to hail from a country outside the Alps—earning both a gold medal in giant slalom and a silver in slalom in the 1952 Winter Olympic games in Oslo. Two years later he collected three additional gold medals at the 1954 World Championships in Åre, Sweden.

Beyond his competitive achievements, Eriksen was known for his uncanny ability and grace as a skier. One of the sport's first superstars, he pioneered the reverse-shoulder turning technique and the daring flips and aerial maneuvers he completed in exhibitions inspired the sport of freestyle skiing. Ski writer and former skier Nicholas Howe said of Eriksen, "For most of us, even the great ones, skiing seemed to be a muscular, difficult thing. What Stein did was something else. It was all the curves and delicate balances; it was the floating grace of a ballet dancer. Where gravity was concerned, Stein seemed to have choices not open to the rest of us."

Charismatic and dedicated to advancing the sport, Eriksen was not only influential in Norway, he also used his superstar status to promote and foster the growth of the skiing industry in the United States. Upon moving to the United States in 1950, he bolstered and improved ski programs and courses and developed resorts in California, Colorado, Utah and Vermont before becoming the director of skiing at Stein Eriksen Lodge at Deer Valley resort.

Fondly remembered by those that knew him personally as well as the many who he inspired, Eriksen succeeded in leaving a lasting legacy as one of skiing's greatest pioneers. To learn more about Stein Eriksen, check out these great resources:

- "The Legendary Skier: The Stein Eriksen Story" www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fARftZllyk • "The Man and the His Mountain" www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IZrDWosADE
- <http://blog.deervalley.com/?p=9250>

Saved the cancelled stamps from all those your mail. The Tubfrim project can use them. Stamps must be trimmed to have at least a 1/4 inch border. Bring them to the meetings.

Don't forget the District 5 Cultural Skills Contest!!

District 5 has initiated skills contest. The lodge and member in District 5 that receives the most cultural pins in the same time period will receive a prize. If several people all get the same number of pins, then a name will be drawn from this group of people. The contest period will be January 1 - May 31, 2016. All awards will be presented at the 2016 District 5 Convention, June 25, 2016. The awards will be a one-time prize. If you have any questions you may contact Esther Charlton at esthersofn@aol.com.



Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge 5-616
N17787 Hammond Lane
Galesville, WI 54630-8269
Editor LaVonne Wier
608-539-3243

Iron Age Settlement Discovered in Norway

Archaeologists in Norway recently collected an array of Iron Age artifacts from an excavation site near Ørland Airport. Known to be a promising area that was likely to yield relics, the region was unavailable for exploration due to government restrictions on archaeological digs until an expansion at the nearby airport offered an opportunity for excavation.

At one time on the edges of a secluded bay, the 22-acre survey site appears to have been a 1,500-year-old farming and fishing community. “It was a sheltered area along the Norwegian coastal route from southern Norway to the northern coasts. And it was at the mouth of Trondheim Fjord, which was a vital link to Sweden and the inner regions of mid-Norway,” said Ingrid Ystgaard of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

Among the preliminary findings were postholes for three longhouses and waste piles called middens, where garbage would have been discarded. Fortunately for the researchers, the low acidity of the sandy soil provided the perfect medium for preserving the contents of the middens, yielding animal bones, glass and amber pieces of jewelry and a shard of glass from a goblet.

A first-of-its-kind discovery for Norway, the Iron Age refuse provides researchers with valuable insights into what the villagers ate (fish and seabirds), what they wore and how they lived. The shard of glass also indicates that the village was wealthy enough that trade for glass would have been possible.

To learn more about the settlement, or to watch for future discoveries at the site, visit the NTNU’s research webzine at www.Gemini.no/en.