



Budstikken



Volume 47 Issue 3

March 2012

Wergeland Lodge #5/028 P.O. Box 3591, La Crosse, WI 54602-3591

**Next Meeting - Thursday, March 1
6:30 PM - American Legion Hall
711 S. 6th Street, La Crosse**

"A Salute to Wergeland's 40 Years Sponsoring a Folk Dance Group"

- **Learn** about the history of Wergeland Lodge's dance ambassadors on Thursday, March 1st.
- **Listen** to the music from various valleys throughout Norway--some which are the homes of your ancestors.
- **See** how Norsk stories from centuries ago are told through dances and are still performed today.
- **Celebrate** together how our lodge has promoted Norsk culture throughout the area for 40 musical years.

More than 300 children and adults have proudly promoted the Wergeland Dancer name as they performed from Wisconsin to Florida over the last 40 years. Wergeland #28, you are special!

There are a lot of people to thank, which I will do during the program, so this is an invitation to everyone to come and enjoy the program. Please invite any former dancers that you may know.

Sandra Kawatski
Wergeland Dancers Instructor

WERGELAND KALENDER

- March 1: **6:30 pm-** General Meeting at the Legion
 March 13: 8:30 am- Board meeting at Perkins on Hwy 16 near the Mall
 March 19: Deadline for Budstikken articles
 March 24: 9:00 am-New Member Breakfast at River Jacks, Best Western Midway Hotel
 March 28: Budstikken mailed to Members
 April 5: 7:00? pm-General Meeting at the Legion

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Fra Presidenten:

**God Dag
The Seas..... Our Norwegian
Heritage!**

As we look back on our heritage I don't believe anyone would dispute the fact that the seas have always played a big part in the history of Norway. All the way from the Vikings to the present time, Norwegians were at sea.

My dad was underway on ships for seven years and I guess that's why I joined the navy and stayed in for 33 years.

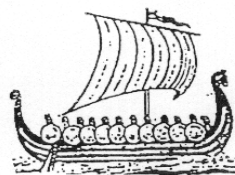
During my term as president I would like to share with you a small item of fact each month from a sailor's heritage.

The first item I would like to look at is this: watch schedules and bells aboard ship. As early as the 15th Century, a bell was used to sound the time aboard ship and an hourglass was used to tell time. Aboard ship, a 24 hour day was divided into six 4 hour watches. The hourglass was turned over by the Quartermaster at each half-hour. At the end of the first half-hour of the watch one bell was sounded. At each subsequent half-hour another bell was added until at the end of the watch, eight bells were sounded and you knew your watch was over.

Come to our lodge meeting on March 1st and to start out the meeting, I will show you how this is done !

May Wergeland Lodge experience fair winds and following seas as we work to improve our lodge.

Mange Tusen Takk!



Eugene

Eugene Johnson

March Birthdays

Gratullerer Med Dagen

- 1 Raymond D Mattison
- 1 Robert L Mickelson
- 1 Marilyn L Silbaugh
- 2 Douglas R Johnson
- 4 Jean A Davis
- 4 Nancy N Solberg
- 4 Ray A Sundet
- 5 Mavis L Stafslie
- 6 David D Christianson
- 7 Cathy J Ells
- 7 Clifford E Gilbertson
- 7 Ruth P Monson
- 8 Pamela J Knudtson
- 9 Bruce F Berseth
- 10 Terry L Loper
- 10 Betty Ann Posaas
- 10 Debra A Roe
- 11 Kathryn "R Beane
- 11 Muriel L Roesler
- 11 Annette L Sherry
- 13 Michael Drugan
- 13 Rylee Drugan
- 14 Clayton L Hanson
- 14 Zachary R Melby
- 15 Janet H Melby
- 15 Helen E Munson
- 16 Keegan Drugan
- 16 Marlene C McCabe
- 16 Elsie K Olson
- 16 Florence C Spors
- 17 Lydia L Allen
- 18 Carol J Temte
- 18 Sidney D Welda
- 20 Karen A DeSchepper
- 20 La Vonne C Prudlick
- 22 Lee Grippen
- 25 Charles E Hanson
- 26 Donald Paul Anderson
- 26 Erik W Dahl
- 26 Leif L Marking
- 27 Madeline J Anderson
- 28 Kati Casida
- 29 Ruth Ann Scholze
- 31 Florence L Moe-Olson
- 31 Gloria Rainer
- 31 Andrea E Sannes
- 31 Janice M Storlie

Lunch Providers for the March 1 Meeting

Sandwiches (2 ½ dozen): Carole Wadel, Janice Mattison, Susan Eherenman, Karan Mathison, Karen Broadhead, Florence Johnson, Ingrid Iverson, Karen Kesselring, and Evelyn Skogen

Cake: Elsie Olson, Karen Larson, Carla Burkhardt, Audrey Olsen, Shirley Schoenfeld, Lee Grippen, Barbara Anderson, Anne Farning, and Alice Gums

Pickles (2 qts.): Corrine Abegglen, Ruth Olson, and Dave Glomstad

Please contribute \$2 per person at the lunch table for lodge expenses.

Looking Ahead to April.....We will have a special program presented by Harley Refsal, Professor Emeritus who recently retired from Luther College.

Some of our members have taken woodcarving classes from him. We are hoping he can bring us some examples of his works!

Sekretær Notater . . . Sons of Norway Lodge 5/28,

Abbreviated Minutes of the 2/2/12 Lodge Meeting

At 6:30 p.m., the meeting was called to order by President Eugene Johnson.

The officers of the lodge who had not been present at the January 2012 meeting were installed and received their regalia.

Minutes from the January 2012 lodge meeting (published in the Budstikken) were approved and filed.

Treasurer, Marilyn Rudser submitted the latest treasurer's report.

In communications, we received thank you notes from three of the 2011 Scholarship winners and two applications for 2012 Scholarships.

The president reminded us of the annual Barnebirke on 2/23/12. Cookies for the participants should be delivered to Eugene Johnson before 2/22/12, as the Johnson's will attend the event and distribute the cookies.

On January 24, 2012, an inventory of all the lodge's possessions was done. Thanks were given to Shirley Schoenfeld, Mary Sween, Adrian Hagen, and Florence Johnson for their help in the inventory.

The board meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. at Perkins on February 14th.

Thursday 3/1/12 at 6:30 p.m. is our next lodge meeting.

The District 5 convention is at Appleton from June 20th to June 24th – the delegates are Eugene and Florence Johnson, Adrian and Ramona Johnson, Shirley Schoenfeld, and Vernetta Moe.

The International SON Convention will be in Fargo, ND, during 8/22-25/12.

Steve Marking will perform a concert of classical music on Friday, 2/3/12, 7:00 p.m., at the First Lutheran Church in Onalaska.

Norwegian language classes start 2/9/12 and will be from 5:30 -7:00 p.m. at the Mooney Resource Center at Gundersen Lutheran Hospital, La Crosse WI. The classes will be on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in February, March, and April. The charge is \$5:00 for classes.

Norma Piper won the door prize.

We sang "Happy Birthday to all the 2/12 birthdays listed in the Budstikken; our closing song was "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" – all piano accompaniments were done by Ray Mattison.

Contributions were : Foundation, \$54.00; Table Collection, \$171.00.

The program was introduced by Doris Hendrickson. Frieda Nowland gave a presentation of her mother's paintings and books. Her mother was Margit Mindrum (1899-1975).

The program was followed by lunch.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Eherenman, Secretary.



Dis og Dat

Kent and Mary Sween's granddaughter Ciara was in the state finals for high school dance and pom teams at the La Crosse Center on February 4th. Her team is from West Bend East High School.

Eugene and Florence Johnson are excited to say that they welcomed another granddaughter on January 29th. Isabelle Margaret joins two sisters and two brothers in Puyallup WA. She is the 56th grandchild for Eugene and Florence.

Kantaphon Lotangchenintra of Bangkok, Thailand was a guest of **Lee Grippen** at our February meeting. Kantaphon, who is called "Guy," is an exchange student at La Crescent High School this year.

On February 11th, Brian, **Joyce, Lydia and Liesl Allen** skied the Pre-Birkebeiner Race at Hayward WI which is sponsored by the Hayward Lions Club. This is a qualifying race for the regular Birkebeiner.

God Bedring...

...til **Marian Mickelson** who is recovering at home after knee surgery on January 30th. She reports that **Bob** is taking very good care of her.

Brief History of Wergeland Dancers

Organized by lodge members, Jan Brudos and Norene Goplen, the dance group began practices in the Brudos' basement in the fall of 1970. The original 12 dance members included Jamie and Kathy Brudos, Mary Everson, Laura Goplen, Kathy Hanson, Cindy, Kim, Kristen, and Marylani Olsen, Diane and Patty Olson, and Karen Posaas. It was after a year of practicing that the group felt polished enough to perform for an audience—the first at State Road School in La Crosse.



Sandra Kawatski, who started playing accordion for the group in 1971, and Betty Posaas, mother of Karen (Posaas) Miller, have continued to work with the dancers for the past 40 years. Some of the highlights of more than 300 performances have been S/N conventions, Decorah's Nordic Fest, Oktoberfest Heritage Night, Oktoberfest Parade (4-time winner of the Parade Marshall's Award), Dedication of Norskedalen, Syttende Mai celebrations in Westby and Spring Grove, Warrens Cranberry Fest, State Kiwanis Convention, Great River Fest, Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial, and Disney World's Epcot Center.

Thank you to Wergeland Lodge for past sponsorship, to parents for their support, and to the dancers who promoted Scandinavian culture and provided a community service as they entertained throughout the Coulee Region.

Sandra Kawatski

Ask your friends to join Wergeland Sons of Norway at our annual New Member Breakfast

Date: Saturday, March 24

Time : 9:00 AM

Registration : 8:15 AM

**St. Croix Room, River Jacks,
Best Western Midway Hotel
1835 Rose St., La Crosse WI**



Cost of the breakfast is \$10/person unless you have a guest who is joining at that time. If so, then both you and your new member guest are free!

This is a buffet breakfast with an excellent choice of food offerings and is open to all current and joining members. The program is provided by Helge Vestnes, our Financial Benefits Counselor.

Annual membership dues for the Sons of Norway are \$43.50 for a member and \$36.50 for a spouse. Persons joining on March 24 will have their first year dues discounted \$5.00 to \$38.50 and 31.50.

The final count must be in by March 15 to Dave Glomstad. Let him know if you and any guest will be attending by calling 608-461-0583 or contacting him at our next meeting.

From the Viking Resource:

"What is a Unge Venner? Unge Venner means 'Young Friends' in Norwegian. A Juvenile is an insurance category for people ages 0 thru 21 who have a Sons of Norway Juvenile Insurance policy. Once a juvenile turns 16 he/she can apply to be a Unge Venner member and be in that status till they are 23. If they have a parent or grandparent who is currently a member they can become a dues-waived Family Member Unge Venner. Unge Venner members can vote, hold office and serve as delegates. Because they are voting members, an Unge Member *does* count towards end of the year totals used to determine delegate counts and lodge achievement scores."

We currently have 53 Unge Venner members in our lodge. Let's find new ways to get our youth involved in Wergeland Lodge!

Eugene Johnson, President of Wergeland Lodge

Got Yarn?

Does anyone have any leftover Peer Gynt wool yarn from Norway in navy blue color? One or two skeins are needed. Contact **Cathy Ells** at **608-788-0217** if you can help her.



KAREN'S KORNER

What sport do you most associate with Norwegians? Skiing of course. Let's talk skiing. In February you had the opportunity to watch two premier skiing events in Wisconsin. One was the annual ski jump championships in Westby, Wisconsin. The other was the American Birkebeiner ski race in Hayward/Cable, Wisconsin.

The Snowflake Ski Club of Westby, Wisconsin recently hosted the 89th annual ski jump competition February 3-4 in Timber Coulee. Five hills make up the ski complex. The Large Hill Meet takes place on the 118-meter hill, the 7th largest in the United States. World class jumpers from up to 15 nations have competed at this Continental Cup event. The longest jump of 130 meters was set in 2008 by Fredrik Bjerkeengen of Norway. The four other hills of 65, 40, 20, and 10-meter are used for the training of junior jumpers.

The Snowflake Ski Club was organized in 1922 with the idea that this area with so many Norwegians should have a ski hill. It was too expensive to build with metal scaffolding, so in 1923 wooden scaffolding was used for the first hill, between Westby and Bloomingdale. At the first competition there were 15 athletes and 2,000 spectators. Businesses closed for the day so everyone could watch. Lars Haugen of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, took first place that year and was presented the Governor's Cup by the Governor of Wisconsin. The 1960 US Ski Team trained at this location. In it's heyday of the 60's and 70's, the club hosted around 20,000 spectators. Many local residents open their homes to the athletes. The Westby ski jump event is the only one in the nation managed and maintained totally by volunteers.

Ski jumping down a huge, icy hill is an extreme sport. Skiing 56 miles across Greenland in the dark of night without a coat is also an extreme sport. Our Sons of Norway library has a book about skiing that you might be interested in: "Sledge Patrol: A WWII Epic of Escape, Survival and Victory" by David Howarth. This book was featured in Karen's Korner for the November Budstikken. A brief summary: In the winter of 1943, in Greenland, 15 Norwegians, Danes, and Sami outfitted only with dog-sleds and hunting rifles outwit, outsmart, and outlast a German battalion armed with machine guns, grenades, and supplies. The brave group patrols 500 miles of Greenland's coastline and has to escape in the dark, without coats or sleds, to ski 56 miles to safety. If you no longer strap on the downhill or cross-country skis for your own skiing adventure, check out this true tale of skiing skills.

Next month I will have information for you about the Birkebeiner and the Barnebirkie with maybe a story or two from our dedicated 'birke' volunteers, Eugene and Florence Johnson.

(History of the Snowflake Ski Club from various inter-net sites).

Karen Scarseth, Librarian

Looking Back Through the Budstikkens

By Historian Karen Broadhead

Fem år siden (5 years ago) March 2007

Julia Nordby, Christine Hanson, and Kay Lee Gave a program about their ancestors immigrating to America.

The membership breakfast was held March 24, and plans were underway for the May Syttende Mai banquet.

The charter was draped for Selma Nelson, a long-time member.

Ti år siden (10 years ago) March 2002

Pastor Merrill Herder showed a display and gave information about his Norwegian stamps. There was a short presentation from International on Collecting Norwegian and North American Stamps, which is one of the cultural skills programs. Jean Marck gave an explanation about the SON stamp program in the March Budstikken.

Our lodge was asked to handle the coat check at the La Crosse Center during the Governors' Conference.

The membership breakfast was March 23rd at the Midway. Dues were \$28.00.

Femten år siden (15 years ago) March 1997

The Viking Ambassadors of Holmen presented the program on Norwegian history and myths.

Richard Morkwed was named emeritus member of the Board of Governors of Shriners Hospitals for Children in Minneapolis, MN.

Helge Vestnes, our SON field rep, and Vern Olson, Vice-president, announced a membership dinner to be held at Drugan's Castle Mound Supper Club.

Survey for Start Time of Meetings

We have had good reports from members about the earlier start time of 6:30 p.m. How do you feel about this? Is it difficult for you to get to the meetings at this earlier time? Would you like to continue the 6:30 pm starting time for meetings throughout the year?

Express your opinions at our next meeting or write or call your feelings on continuing the 6:30 time to President Gene Johnson. We would like to know this before our March board meeting on Tuesday, March 13th. We will need to make a decision at that time if we are to continue the 6:30 pm starting time all year.



**Call comments to Gene at:
608-783-1492 or email him at
FlojoGene@charter.net.**

Member Madeline Anderson Published in Norway!

Madeline writes, "I belong to the Gudbrandsdalslaget in America. They were going to do a yearbook and were asking for submissions of articles about ancestors from Gudbrandsdal. I thought what an opportunity to put my genealogical research to good use and write some stories. Last winter, I wrote several articles on my maternal great, great grandparents who came from the Øyer and Tretten areas of Oppland, Norway. This area is commonly referred to as Gudbrandsdal.



My articles were published in the "Årbok 2011 Gudbrandsdalslaget". The editor of the yearbook, Jim Olson, sent copies to Norway. The Øyer og Tretten Historielag in Tretten received permission from the editor of our yearbook to translate my articles into Norwegian and have them published in their annual publication, "I Gamle Fotefar" (in old footsteps).

This was quite an honor for me and I was hoping to see this publication. The week before Christmas I received a package from Norway! In it was a book wrapped in Christmas paper. Inside the package was a copy of "I Gamle Fotefar" along with a note from Tordis Trønnes thanking me for my stories. She is the secretary of the Øyer og Tretten Historielag and was the translator of my articles.

I have been working on genealogy for a number of years, all of it connected to Norway. I never dreamed my articles would make it back to the area my ancestors came from, nor to see them translated into Norwegian.

I am using those articles to practice reading Norwegian - easier since I know what they say in English!

I am eventually going to contact the Historielags in Norway for the Toten and Romerike areas to see if they are interested in articles about my immigrant ancestors from those areas who came to the Vernon County area. My paternal ancestors came from Biri and Østre Toten. I also have maternal and paternal ancestors from the Romerike area.

I owe my interest in genealogy to my mother who was very interested in our Norwegian ancestors and who passed on to me many photos, stories and clues about them which made my research easier. As a member of Sons of Norway, I have met a number of people who share my passion for genealogy.

I have given several workshops on Norwegian genealogy and the writing of their stories about their ancestors at the Vernon County Museum in Viroqua. I will be doing one in the spring on how to use Digitalarkivet to find ancestors in parish registers and passenger lists in Norway."

Madeline Anderson

(Editor Note: Madeline is a member of the library committee at Norskedalen and states she would be happy to help anyone working on Norwegian genealogy. See article below.)

Jennifer Lee Marker Library at Norskedalen Thrune Center

We have lots of bygdeboker (family history on the farms in Norway) that we have been collecting in the library for our members and paying guests for their research. They are one of the basic books that genealogists look for when doing Norwegian family history. These books are valuable, and cannot be checked out from the main library. They are listed in the latest Norskedalen "Crossings" newsletter.



The library committee has been diligently going through all the boxes of books that were kept in the attic, and have found that a few books fit our mission. We are restricted for space, and can only accept bygdeboker and family histories in Norwegian. We do accept family histories, novels about Norwegians and immigrants, research books, and animal or nature books in English.

We have been researching to set up realistic goals, policies, and detailed instructions for working in the library. Come and see all the valuable books we have to help you look up ancestry, or history, besides all the interesting books from the Norwegian American Historical Association. We have lots of books on family history, church history, local history, nature, crafts and more. Norskedalen members can check out books from the lending library for one month.

The library committee meets monthly as a whole committee, and some of us come in to volunteer to make improvements in whatever way is needed.

If you have any questions, contact me by e-mail at SASLAX@aol.com. Mange takk!

Shirley Schoenfeld, Chair

Snakker de Norsk??

Are you planning on traveling to Norway this year? Do you want to brush up on some basic Norwegian to help you communicate? Consider using the Sons of Norway's basic Norwegian Language Lessons, which are available at <http://www.sofn.com/members/showPage.jsp?document=memberresources/learnnorwegian.html>

To give you a little taste of what to expect, this will give you some basic, but helpful, Norwegian words and phrases to practice with.

Yes = Ja
No = Nei
Thank you = Takk
Please = Vær så snill
Excuse me = Unnskyld meg
Hello = Hallo
Goodbye = Ha det
I do not understand = Jeg forstår ikke
Where is ...? = Hvor er ...?
Train = Tog
Bus = Buss

Underground/tube/metro = T-bane
Tram = Trikk
Train station = Jernbanestasjon
Bus station = Busstasjon
Airport = Flyplass
I would like to buy... = Jeg vil gjerne kjøpe...
How much does this cost? = Hvor mye koster dette?
Do you have...? = Har du...?
Tourist Information = Turistinformasjon
Police station = Politistasjon
Hospital = Sykehus

You also may attend Norwegian classes being taught by Wergeland's Frieda Nowland. Call her at 788-2098 for time and place.

Subject: Per Lysne Plate

Member Jensine Wing writes "We are getting ready for an estate sale for my Mom, and she is about as Norwegian as you could get. She has a Per Lysne plate which will be there. The target weekend will be the first weekend in March. The sale will be held by "Sales by Sue". There is also a loom--it's a Nadeau loom, and has a table built for it, in case any one is new to weaving and wants a loom. It's 4', and has 4 or 6 Heddels???? (The things on the top that move the threads to make the design.) If you want more information, please let me know, and if you know of anyone interested, I have the loom, but the plate will be at the sale". Jensine can be reached at **608-781-2550**



Nor-Am Tours, a relatively new tour company in Wisconsin

My name is Erling Hansen, and I moved to Wisconsin from Norway in 2009. I enjoy being a member of the Sons of Norway lodge here in Walworth County, "Norsemen of the Lakes".

My wife and I own Nor-Am Tours, and we do tours to Norway and Scandinavia. We do also bus tours in the USA, and we do incoming tours from Norway. I have actually had the pleasure to travel across America, from New York to San Francisco, three times with Norwegian groups since we moved here! Nor-Am Tours can be reached at **262-743-1814**

Norwegian Youth Choir Coming to North Presbyterian Church in La Crosse

Wergeland member Marla Klocke, owner of Norseland Trade & Travel of Decorah announces that she has a 50 member youth choir from Norway coming to the North Presbyterian Church in La Crosse on April 6. They will sing 30 minutes prior to the Good Friday service and will sing two songs during the service. There are also approximately 50 chaperones attending. She invites members of SON to attend.



St. Patrick's Daythe “TRUE” story.

The reason the Irish celebrate St. Patrick's Day is because this is when St. Patrick drove the Norwegians out of Ireland.

It seems that some centuries ago, many Norwegians came to Ireland to escape the bitterness of the Norwegian winter. Ireland was having a famine at the time, and food was scarce. The Norwegians were eating almost all the fish caught in the area, leaving the Irish with nothing to eat but potatoes.

St. Patrick, taking matters into his own hands, as most Irishmen do, decided the Norwegians had to go. Secretly, he organized the Irish IRATRION (Irish Republican Army to Rid Ireland of Norwegians).

Irish members of IRATRION passed a law in Ireland that prohibited merchants from selling ice boxes or ice to the Norwegians, in hopes that their fish would spoil. This would force the Norwegians to flee to a colder climate where their fish would keep.

Well, the fish spoiled, all right, but the Norwegians, as every one knows today, thrive on spoiled fish. So, faced with failure, the desperate Irishmen sneaked into the Norwegian fish storage caves in the dead of night and sprinkled the rotten fish with lye, hoping to poison the Norwegian invaders. But, as everyone knows, the Norwegians thought this only added to the flavor of the fish, and they liked it so much they decided to call it "lutefisk", which is Norwegian for "lye fish".

Matters became even worse for the Irishmen when the Norwegians started taking over the Irish potato crop and making something called "lefse".

Poor St. Patrick was at his wits end, and finally on March 17th, he blew his top and told all the Norwegians to "GO TO HELL". So they all got in their boats and emigrated to Minnesota, Wisconsin, or the Dakotas---- the only other paradise on earth where smelly fish, old potatoes and plenty of cold weather can be found in abundance. And now you know the “true” story.

(copied from other SON newsletters)



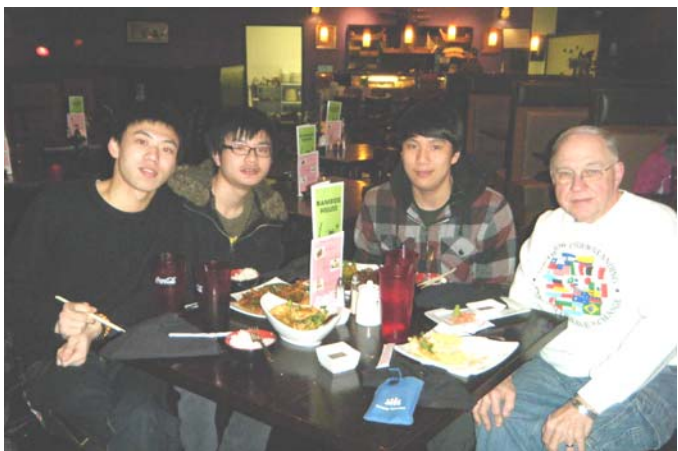
Frieda Nowland and her sister Ellen Olson display some of their mother’s paintings at our February meeting program.



Gene Johnson being presented with a wooden replica of Norway that was given to Lee by the Birkebeiner Lodge of Lillehammer, Norway a few years ago. Lee says “I wanted Gene to have it as he is connected with the Barnebirkie here.”



Lee Grippen brought a guest to our last meeting-- YFU (Youth For Understanding) foreign student who goes to LaCrescent HS. His name is Kantaphon Lotangchanintra and he is from Bangkok, Thailand. Guy will be here until June when he returns home. They call him Guy for obvious reasons!



Lee is shown here with other exchange students who are in the “Youth For Understanding” group.

2012 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION SONS OF NORWAY • FARGO ND

You probably know by now that this year Sons of Norway will be hosting a Biennial International Convention. This is an important event for the organization because it's when we hold the International Lodge Meeting, a time when members come together to participate in our organization's governance by discussing issues that will have a significant impact on Sons of Norway.

This year the Convention is also the home of the first-ever Innovative Leadership Conference, an event open to ALL members and dedicated to strengthening attendees leadership skills.

To help members learn about each of these important events, Sons of Norway has launched a new website, www.sonsofnorway2012.com. Visitors to this new website will learn about all the exciting things happening at the Convention, register for attendance, get schedule/agenda updates and learn about the event location, Fargo, ND. Visit today to learn all about the exciting events coming up this summer!

Norwegian Experience 2012

Once again Sons of Norway is partnering with Borton Overseas to offer one lucky recruiter and their guest an amazing travel experience in Norway! All year, every Sons of Norway member who recruits a new, dues-paying member will be entered into the 2012 Norwegian Experience Recruitment Contest.

The trip, which will be awarded in January of 2013, will include airfare, meals, exclusive travel opportunities and upscale accommodations! Just imagine taking a 10 day land-tour of Norway enjoying some of the most beautiful scenery that Scandinavia has to offer! The best part is that the winner gets to choose their own adventure! Whether you prefer an active trip full of sight-seeing and touring, or a more laid-back vacation, it's up to you!

To enter this year's Norwegian Experience Recruitment Contest all you have to do is recruit one new, dues-paying member and make sure your name is listed in the "Referred By" field. It's as easy as that! Entries are taken from members recruited between January 1st and December 31st, 2012. Also, remember that you can enter as many times as you recruit throughout the year, which increases your chances of winning!

Leif Marking Reports on Wood Duck Study

Leif writes, "Last winter I was contacted by National Geographic representatives who wanted to record Wood Duck ducklings escaping their cavity. However, they required them escaping a natural cavity rather than our Brice Prairie Conservation Assoc. canister houses. When I explained that I know of some natural cavities, but raccoon always destroyed the eggs before hatching, they suggested replacing some of my successful canister house sites for prepared natural cavities where the escape could be photographed.

Neil Rettig, a NG photographer, and his brother built artificial natural cavities to replace three very successful canister houses located on Ebert's pond adjacent to the LaCrosse river near West Salem, WI. I observed Wood Ducks occupying all three naturalized nest cavities and recorded the laying process and estimated 28 day hatching periods. The escape usually follows the next day after hatching. The Rettig's, Neil and Laura, successfully captured the escape with video on two sites."

Leif Marking

This remarkable recording was included in "Wild Mississippi" on "National Geographic Wild" channel Feb 12, 2012. Leif says "I have not seen the program yet", but he had it set to record on his DVR satellite Direct TV station 283.

Have you Done Your Income Tax Yet?

Vilda Olson sent us this cute poem written by Arthur C. Stavig of Seattle WA. Vilda found this book of "Recipes and Scandinavian Recitations in Dialect" while sorting out some of her mother's items. Vilda's parents were Alfred and Alida Peterson, who were long-time members of Wergeland Lodge.

DA ENCOME TACKS

Dat onkel Sam come 'round so quick
Ven he vant hiss encome tacks ---
Den ve holler lak dis Donal' Duck
An' ve sqvawk a lot off qvacks!

He use for us installment plans
An' he say dis mak it sound ---
He reach hiss hand out for da tacks
Avery time ve turn around.

Ve don't lak tew mak dis Onkel mad
Men, he's always vanting more ---
Ay yust vunder vere he spand da stuff
Dat ve gave tew him before ?

Ven he iss flat an' need som cash
An' start crying in hiss beer ---
Ay vouldn't care so very moch
Ef it vasn't avery year !



a little in English...
Norway after 1980

The 1980s marked the end of the epoch that was described as "the post-war period." At the fiftieth anniversary of independence in 1995 the post-war generation had the most power positions in society and industry. In the years after 1980, Norway was marked by large revenue from petroleum production in the North Sea, which created an increased prosperity for the vast majority. In addition, the world has moved closer to us, both in public policy, in business and in the private sector. The economy is more international than before. Norwegians travel more than before, and the new media situation has made so that the 2000s is described by how many and what kind of TV one has in their living room. Norway has also become a multicultural society, where groups of immigrants have created a more international flavor in Norwegian society

Equality has made great strides. In this period, Norway had a female prime minister, parliament president, dean and bishop. The attitude towards authorities has changed. It has been pointed out that, for example, the titles of politicians and other magistrates have become less significant, and the previous social solidarity has been replaced with a stronger interest in the private sector. With the elections there has been a larger fluctuation for individual parties; voter's loyalty has lessened, which has been interpreted as dissatisfaction with the established political institutions.

Prosperity has also highlighted those who fall outside of prosperity. Some have claimed that Norway is on the way to becoming what social science researchers call the "2/3 society" (and in Norway the fraction is maybe the "4/5 society"), where the vast majority are well off, is great enough to ensure the maintenance of the system, while other groups that fall outside when it comes to education, employment, health and prosperity. In the 2000s, the poverty debate has flared up once again, and in political rhetoric it's often referred to as "the world's richest country." The political divisions have made it more apparent of the degree of public control.

litt på norsk...
Norge etter 1980

1980-årene markerte slutten på den epoken som gikk under betegnelsen "etterkrigstiden". Ved femtiårsjubileet for frigjøringen i 1995 satt etterkrigsgenerasjonen med de fleste maktposisjoner i samfunns- og næringsliv. I årene etter 1980 har Norge blitt preget av de store inntektene fra petroleumsutvinningen i Nordsjøen, som har skapt økt velstand for det store flertall. I tillegg har verden rykket oss nærmere, både i den offentlige politikk, næringslivet og privatsfæren. Økonomien er mer internasjonalsert enn tidligere. Nordmenn reiser mer enn før, og den nye mediesituasjonen har ført til at det på 2000-tallet knapt er begrensninger på hvor mye og hva slags fjernsyn man vil ha inn i stuene. Norge har også blitt et flerkulturelt samfunn, der grupper av innvandrere har satt et mer internasjonalt preg på norsk samfunnsnivå.

Likestillingen har gjort store fremskritt. Norge fikk i perioden bl.a. kvinnelig statsminister, stortingspresident, prost og biskop. Holdningen til autoriteter har endret seg. Det har vært pekt på at tilliten til f.eks. politikere og andre øvrighetspersoner er blitt mindre, og den tidligere samfunnsolidariteten er blitt avløst av en sterkere interesse for privatsfæren. Ved valgene har det vært store svingninger for enkelte partier; velgernes lojalitet har blitt mindre, noe som også har vært tolket som misnøye med de etablerte politiske institusjoner.

Velstandsøkningen har også synliggjort dem som faller utenfor. Enkelte har hevdet at Norge er på vei mot det samfunnsforskerne kaller "2/3-samfunnet" (for Norges del kanskje heller "4/5-samfunnet"), der det store flertall som har det bra, er stort nok til å sikre opprettholdelse av systemet, mens noen grupper faller utenfor når det gjelder utdanning, arbeid, helse og velstand. På 2000-tallet har det igjen blusset opp en debatt om fattigdom i Norge, som i politisk retorikk ofte omtales som "verdens rikeste land". De politiske skillelinjer har også blitt tydeligere i synet på graden av offentlig styring.

Your paraprosookian for March! "Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine."

ST. GREGORY'S DAY -----Your Primstav for March 12



St. Gregory was considered one of the four great Fathers of The Church. His symbol was a dove, but since crows were more familiar to the Norsemen, it was usually regarded as a crow. If the crows returned on this day, it was believed that spring would come early.

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and 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.

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DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

MARCH 11TH!!

Spring Begins
March 20



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Norskedalen Activities



Throne Visitor's Center:

Winter Hours: Jan. 1 - March 31

Monday-Friday: 8 am to 4 pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

**"Always on a Sunday" Programs will resume
at a later date**

**Norskedalen will hold its annual
Benefit Rummage and Bake Sale**

Saturday, March 10

8 am to 3 pm

at the Coon Valley Village Hall

**Donations can be dropped off at the Village Hall on
Thursday and Friday, March 8 and 9, 8 am to 4 pm.**

Call Norskedalen for pickup of large items.

There will be no "Sweet Sweet Spring" activities this year.

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