



NYHETER BREVET

-A NEWSLETTER-

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ORD FRA DIN VALKYRIEN LOSJE PRESIDENT

(Words from your Lodge President)

Hilsen Venner,

I just returned from a wonderful two week trip to Norway. The trip was planned for the Gudbrandsdal Lag by Brekke Tours. It centered on Telemark and the Gudbrandsdal Valley. The two main themes for the bus tour were WW II locations and churches along the way. We saw the Rjukan Heavy Water Museum, WW II Resistance Museum and the Oscarborg Fortress. The history of the five years that Germany occupied Norway was displayed through movies, pictures, and artifacts. We had guides that spoke about these events and how the King and his family escaped out of the country. The churches we visited in these same areas were Heddal, Lom, Sør Fron, Nord Fron, Gausdal-East and West, Kvam and Lillehammer. Other museums of rural farm history were also included.



Next year I hope to show pictures of the magnificent altars and carvings in these churches, some being over 500 years old.

At the September meeting we will learn the importance of bees with Clair Severson talking about his hobby of beekeeping. In October, we will hear how the USA got the Statue of Liberty. Please invite your friends or relatives to join us that night. Let's make this a recruitment night to bring in new members. We also need to elect a nominating committee in September to find officers for 2020. Please consider serving as one of three needed for this task.

With the fall schedule, we look forward to area church suppers. The aroma of meatballs and lutefisk are in the air! Here are some dates to put on your calendar:

Rush River Lutheran Church Meatball Dinner	Sunday, Sept. 29
Wilson Lutheran Meatball Dinner, Wilson	Thursday, Sept. 26
Our Savior's Lutheran Lutefisk Dinner, Beldenville	Thursday, Oct. 24
West Immanuel Lutheran Lutefisk Dinner, Osceola	Saturday, Nov. 9

Audrey Severson, President



Happy Birthday

Barbara Zimmerman	Sept. 29th
Mary Lesterud	Oct. 02
James McQuitty	08
Kathy Williams	11
Reuben Newborg	18
Tom Olson	27
Karen Esanbock	Nov. 01
Judy Johnson	06
Sandy Olson	09
Ron Thompson	15

Bumbling Viking Parody Takes Netflix by Storm!

Another Norwegian TV series has broken into the North American market to satisfy the public's fascination with the Viking age.



Set in 790 A.D. in the settlement Norheim, *Norsemen* is a spoof on ancient Viking life with a twist: the characters may look the part of ruthless pillagers, but the plot involves thoroughly modern problems. A woman broods that her warrior husband cannot match her intellect, a slave feels artistically unfulfilled, and a chieftain roleplays his sham marriage with little success.

The original Norwegian series is called *Vikingane* ["The Vikings"] and the same versatile cast re-filmed every scene in English for *Norsemen*, so the humor carries over and there is no need to read subtitles. Unfortunately, the original Norwegian version is not available to North American Netflix viewers.

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2019

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The mission of the Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve heritage and culture of Norway and to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members. For information contact: www.sofn.com



LODGE LINES

Valkyrien Lodge Meeting August 26, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Babe Jacobson at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by singing the Canadian, Norwegian and United States national anthems. Guest Fern Tomaszewski was introduced as well as the students attending Mosse Moro (listed below).

Randi and Gary Hoffman presented a travelogue of their recent trip to Italy, focusing on the areas of the city of Milan and Lake Como.



Minutes of the June meeting and the treasurer’s report were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Unfinished Business:

Mosse Moro – Sandy Olson presented a certificate of appreciation to the lodge for the purchase of a grill, helping to finance a new refrigerator, and for scholarships. Fifty-three campers attended along with 20 staff. The young people associated with our Lodge gave brief highlights of the camp. (Photo from left) Sandy Olson introduces our 2019:campers: Jackson Weinert, Abby Olson and

Thea Bentley.

New Business:

There will be a District Leadership Conference on October 18-20 at Clear Lake, Indiana, and we would like our Lodge to be represented. The Lodge will help with funding for costs. Let Sandy Olson know if you are interested.

The Board will meet on Sept. 9 at 1:00 pm. The next regular meeting will be on September 23.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Sandra Calvert, Secretary



Two of our lodge members have recently been experiencing medical problems.

Ron Thompson and Rueben Newborg

We all wish you both a quick recovery and hope that you will be back with us again soon.

“MILAN AND LAKE COMO—A PERFECT PAIR”

Presented by Gary & Randi Hoffman at our August 26th Lodge Meeting



The Last Supper by Michelangelo



Lake Como (Photo by Lucia Casartell)

Our world travelers, Gary and Randi Hoffman, gave a wonderful presentation on their recent trip to Milan and Lake Como, Italy. Their tour started out in the busy and cosmopolitan city of Milan located in the north western part of Italy. Like many Italian cities, Milan is rich in art and heritage. One of its most famous residents was Michelangelo who was not only a painter but a sculptor and engineer. One of his most famous paintings, “*The Last Supper*” is displayed in Milan. A number of his statues are also in this city including one of the biblical figure of David.

After a busy touring schedule in Milan, Gary and Randy Hoffman decided for a change in tempo and traveled to Lake Como which is about 40 miles north of Milan. This area has been a tourist attraction for over 100 years and is characterized by spectacular views of the lake and surrounding mountains. Many villas and their associated gardens can be found along the lake which stretches for many miles through the mountains. Boat trips on the lake are very popular. Their accommodations at Lake Como were fantastic with a view of the lake out their room window and a garden below with mountains in the background.

The lodge members thoroughly enjoyed their presentation and hope they continue their world travels so we can see the world through their travel experiences.



“Bumblng Viking Parody...” - Continued from page 2

Lines are delivered in irreverent deadpan or with melodramatic bluster, and the occasional violence plays out comedically rather than for the glorification of gore. Filmed in Avaldsnes, Karmøy municipality in Rogaland county, *Norsemen* takes place in locations that were once actual Viking settlements.

Season 1 of *Vikingane* averaged one million viewers per episode—one fifth of Norway’s populace. It won a Gullruten [Golden Screen] award in 2017 for Best Comedy Show. The Gullruten Awards are Norway’s annual award ceremony for excellence in the Norwegian TV industry. In 2017, The New York Times put *Norsemen* on its top 10 list of best international TV series.

The first season of *Norsemen* garnered so much attention that it was picked up as a Netflix Original, with the second season following shortly thereafter. Season 3 premieres in Norway this fall on NRK and is expected to be available for North American viewers in 2020. You can view the Season 1 trailer of *Norsemen* on “You Tube.”

By Jana Velo (9/13/19 Blog)

Valkyrien Lodge's Annual Picnic

*At Olson Century Farm
Spring Valley, WI.*



This year's Sons of Norway picnic was held on Olson Century farm near Spring Valley, WI. and was hosted by members Don and Arlys Olson with great help from Susan Faber and Pat Sandom.

The farm is presently owned by Don and Paul Olson and their sister Anita Fletcher. They are the



Hans and Isabelle Olson

third generation owners of the farm which was settled in 1896 by their grandfather Hans Olson. The farm consists of 200 acres of which about 120 acres are tillable with the rest being woods and pasture. Crops grown on the farm now are corn, soybeans, oats and hay. The last cattle left the farm in the 1990s.

Many of the buildings are over 100 years old and an effort is being made to maintain them in their present form. Signs in both English and Norwegian are being made that tell the history of the buildings. A stone from the foundation of Benjamin Olson's house is displayed next to the old cream house. (Benjamin Olson was the father of Hans Olson.) This stone was discovered by the present owner of Benjamin Olson's farm near Centerville, WI.

The hay loft in the "new barn" provided ample room for tables and chairs for the picnic meal. A tour of the farm buildings was given by Don Olson after the meal. Members enjoyed the game of Kubb on the lawn outside of the barn. The weather cooperated with a mild sunny day which made for an enjoyable time for all.

Our Annual Picnic, July 22, 2019 Olson Heritage Farm



Photo by Judy Johnson



Special thanks to Sandy Olson for providing some of these photos of our picnic.

Romerike and Solør Stevne

September 11-14, 2019

Willmar, MN



By Don Olson

Arlys's relatives immigrated from a small farm near a larger farm called Odalsverk in Sør-Odal in Hedmark county, Norway. People with ancestors from this area and other parts of Hedmark meet once a year at their Solør Lag. The Glomma river runs through Hedmark county from the North to the South and is the logo for the Solør Lag.

This year the stevne for Solør and Rommerike lags was held in Willmar, MN which is about 90 miles Northwest of the Twin Cities. Willmar is located in Kandiyohi county which has a large Norwegian-American population. The stevne began on Tuesday and continued until Saturday morning. The days were filled with interesting presentations, a bus tour to historical sites in the area, evening dinners and genealogy research. A very detailed and comprehensive description of the Indian uprising in the 1860's was given by an author who has written several books on the subject. Another presenter spoke on "Scandinavian Culture in Modern Minnesota". A well known wood carver showed his work and demonstrated several types of techniques used in his art. At one of the evening dinners, a photographer gave a presentation on his project to photograph all the churches in Kandiyohi County. As you may guess, most of the churches were Lutheran but there were others. Unfortunately some of the old Norwegian churches have been abandoned.



On Wednesday afternoon we took the bus tour to historic sites in the area. The first stop was the museum for Kandiyohi County. The museum houses many historical artifacts from the area including an ox cart that was used before the railroad to transport goods from St. Paul across Minnesota all the way up to Canada. After lunch, we traveled in the country to visit a Norwegian log church (*photo left*) that was built on the same spot as one of the first churches in the area. We also visited Sibley State Park which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Two interesting side notes on the stevne. At the banquet on Wednesday evening, we shared a table with a couple from Norway. They live in Roverud, Norway, where one of Arlys's relatives lives. They are members of the lag and come to this event on a regular basis.

Also on Friday, I was sitting at a table in the genealogy room looking at a bygdabok from Folldal, Norway. A woman across the table heard me tell Arlys that I was looking for information on the Sandom farm. She said that she was related to the Sandom family. It appears that she is a third cousin to Einar Sandom. We had an interesting conversation and she knew about the "Norwegian Ridge" area near Spring Valley where many Norwegian settled.

Arlys and I enjoyed the stevne and plan to attend it again next year when it will be held in New Ulm, Minnesota. We would encourage members who have relatives from the Hedmark area to take part in this lag.