

Vennelag News

EVENTS TO NOTE

*Unless otherwise indicated, all Vennelag Board meetings will be held at Culver's Restaurant at 6:30 PM.

*Lodge meetings are held at the Mt. Horeb Community Center, 107 N. Grove Street.

*Our schedule at the Mt. Horeb Community Center may be changing. Please be watchful for e-blast updates from President Watrud regarding our upcoming events and their locations.

JULY 8, 2020-BOARD MEETING-VIRTUAL

JULY 23, 2020-PICNIC AT BRIGHAM PARK,

pending

AUGUST 12, 2020 BOARD MEETING-VIRTUAL

AUGUST 27, 2020 LODGE MEETING-MHCC

No food or drink is permitted per new Village policies.



depositphotos.com

There has been a changing of the guard in the membership secretary role for Vennelag Lodge. Thank you, Kathy Wulff, for assuming this position. Should you need to contact Kathy in regard to your membership information, you may reach her at: justustak@gmail.com

Ord Fra Presidenten

Occasionally, I like to paraphrase sayings from others who are far more eloquent than me. One noteworthy and timely quote was published December 19, 1776, by Thomas Paine in the first installation of his works, *The American Crisis*. His famous introduction reads, "These are the times that try men's souls." And naturally, today, that includes women. We have learned that the patriots persevered and so shall we.

Once this unprecedented crisis passes, I fervently trust that we will be able to rekindle interest in our various Lodge activities. Meetings will be well-attended, lefse will be rolled-out by the ton, and kubb blocks will fall like rain. Baking grills will once again be heated, and our enthusiasm for all things Norsk will likewise be fired-up!

Beginning with this newsletter that covers July and August, we have been advised that our "home," the Mt. Horeb Community Center, will no longer allow food preparation nor serving foods of any type. Our August 27th meeting will see some changes that will be implemented for the safety of all. Please plan to attend the meeting and know that it will be safe. This is the policy for now which is subject to change in the future.

While we have all had to hunker down at home, your Board has continued to make Lodge plans. The itinerary for the Lodge trip to Norway in 2021 is included in this newsletter. Travel will occur in September and will follow on the heels of the Lodge's 50th Anniversary celebration scheduled for Saturday, July 25, 2021.

So, while most of 2020 will forever be remembered as the time that was not, the period after that will be remembered as the time that really rocked as we play catch-up! I am looking forward to it!

Takk så mye for at du leste-thanks so much for reading.

Allen

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.

Operating Expenses Needed for Venues

Museums in Norway have joined many other historical sites, companies, and institutions demanding Corona-crisis aid packages. When COVID-19 forced the closing of public places in March so went the daily revenue needed to operate. The outlook remains poor for the remainder of 2020 since foreign tourists will not be traveling to Norway. The KODE art museum complex in Bergen, including the historic home of composer Edvard Grieg, warned last week that it faces bankruptcy by October unless the state boosts its funding. Prime Minister Erna Solberg promised that a new crisis package looms: “We’re working hard to find solutions for institutions like KODE.” Source: *NEWS in ENGLISH.NO*

Grieg’s Troidhaugen in Bergen, Norway



depositphotos.com

Gratulerer til deg!

Eric Albrecht has been awarded the Myrtle Beinbauer scholarship administered by the *Sons of Norway Foundation*. Eric is continuing his studies at UW-Madison with a healthcare concentration.



Avery Goth was awarded a District 5 book scholarship. She will be studying criminal justice at UW-Platteville. We laud these two young adult members and thank you for making a difference during these challenging times.

Check out the Sons of Norway Blog for the Latest News from Norway!

One out of 3 seniors in Norway lives a life of isolation. For many people struggling with the onset of the COVID-19 virus, isolation and loneliness can be just as difficult to manage as their fears of the virus. With age, comes the discomfort of using new technology. Knowing how technology can be positively used for communicating with one’s family members or how to use it to find interesting diversions to occupy idle hours are also concerns. A Norwegian start-up company has found a way to address the needs of today’s seniors.

No Isolation has been developing user-friendly technologies designed to combat loneliness among elderly and other vulnerable populations. Its goal is to bridge the technology gap between generations and make it easy for people to connect remotely without the need for smartphones or computer skills.

One of their offerings is a device called [Komp](#), which looks a lot like an old-fashioned television—it features a screen and a single knob for adjusting the volume and turning the device on and off, with no username or password required. Friends and loved ones can connect to the device with a smartphone app to share photos and messages, or to connect for two-way video calls in real time.

UFF-DA...Lena met a lady at the church bazaar who was sporting a showy diamond ring. As Lena was admiring it, the lady remarked that the diamond was a known as the Anderson diamond, and it came with a curse. “Uff-da,” said Lena. “Vhat is da curse?” The lady retorted, “MISTER ANDERSON.”



Dis and Dat with Deb and Ron Goplin

Ron hails from Blue River, WI, but Deb calls Marshfield, WI home. He is a graduate of UW Platteville where he majored in agri-business. There, he met Al Watrud, a life-long friend.

Deb is a proud Badger alumnus. Her lifelong career was in the health insurance industry. Now, they are both retired and are living life to the fullest.

In February, the Goplins took their first cruise, returning home just prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. Door County is one of their favorite Wisconsin destinations. They also enjoy spending long days at their family cabin near Blue River where there are many outdoor activities to enjoy.

Deb and Ron's family includes three grown sons and three grandsons who all in this area. They are active members in their church. Ron also belongs to the Lions Club, and he plays in the Madison Ukulele Club. Deb is a certified Master Gardener, and she volunteers for that group. She has made great tasting cookies for Vennelag events. Ron showcased his musical talents at the last Vennelag Talent Show.

Vennelag Documents Have Gone Digital!

The Board has been developing and implementing plans to store key Lodge records in safe storage in the Google "cloud."

These records include, but are not limited to, meeting minutes, agendas, reports, formal procedures, and organization issues.

By storing this data off-site, we avoid the problem of losing important Lodge information if a key computer or server were to fail. It also lends itself to easy transition to a new administrative team, when the time comes, without needing to copy or move documents. Lastly, it gives us firmer control over sensitive information such as membership or financial data.

What this also means to the general membership is that if you wish to share or keep things like recipes, photos, music, or anything else that can be digitized, we can store it! To do so, merely attach the document to an email and send it to VennelagLodge@gmail.com, and one of the officers will download it to the appropriate storage folder. It is easier than it sounds! *If you would like further information, or have additional questions, contact a Board member.



A Pandemic Essay by Lodge member Arthur Ness

It amazed me how quickly the idea of what is “normal” has changed. That is what happens in times of major disasters and a pandemic certainly qualifies. This period in both our national and personal histories will be a defining moment for many of us. If you are my age, you know where you were and what you were doing during the Cuban Missile Crisis or when President John F. Kennedy was shot. Younger people remember when the Challenger space shuttle blew up or what they were doing on September 11th, 2001. We will all remember what we did during the COVID-19 Pandemic and how it changed our various lifestyles. I hope it is not overshadowed by the memories of future disasters for a long time to come.

My mother remembered the last pandemic: The Spanish Flu that stalked the country between 1918 and 1920. She talked and wrote about it. I had chosen to study the field of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, and I was particularly interested in those memories. Although she was unaware of the technical aspects of the virus itself, she remembered a lot about what it was like to live through those times.

We are now dealing with many of the same things my ancestors did: social isolation, banned social gatherings, closed businesses and institutions, and fear. Unlike the world of 1918, we have an opportunity to deal with the COVID-19 Virus from a position of some knowledge. In 1918, the idea of viruses was cutting edge research, and there were no good treatments for the virus or the secondary effects.

The virus took off among the young men serving abroad in close confines of their barracks who were fighting in WWI. As those young men were mustered out and dispersed throughout the country to their homes, it spread rapidly across the country. For my mother, the immediate effect was that school was closed in Daleyville. Agnes Sanders, the teacher, died on December 12, 1918. She was 22, and that was quite typical. It was young people with good immune systems who died. The disease kicked the body’s immune response into high gear, and many of the victims succumbed as their lungs became inflamed and they drowned in their own secretions.

My mother’s older sister (b. 1900) was in her first year at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. She was also sick. Grandma rode to the cheese factory every day with the milk delivery, and then walked over to the Daleyville Telephone Exchange so she could call and get the latest update. Using one’s party line telephone did not work very well because a popular pastime in rural areas was “rubbernecking” or listening-in on your neighbor’s calls. Every time another rubbernecker joined the call, the signal became weaker. On long distance calls that might be of interest to a lot of neighbors, it soon became impossible to hear much of anything. Calls of a serious nature were best made from “The Exchange” because that bypassed all the party lines. The news was good; my aunt came through the flu pandemic with little trouble.

Continued...

A second wave hit much harder through the winter of 1919 and into 1920. Once again schools and churches were closed. In late February of 1920, my grandmother's aunt and daughter came from North Dakota for a visit. My mother remembered going to see them at her Aunt Augusta's home one evening. Her other aunt, Hilda, was there as well. While they were there, the phone rang, and it was the doctor. My grandmother had a younger brother, Ludvig, who lived at the home place a few miles west of Daleyville. He had four young children and his wife, Bergit, was due to give birth any day. The doctor told them that they were all sick at Ludvig's place and that the baby could be born at any time. Bergit's sister, Taaran, was there, but she needed help. Someone from our home would have to come and help!

The three sisters had a tense conference because they all believed that going over to help was to risk death. Finally, Augusta told the other two, "You both have children. I don't; I must go." She did and luckily, she never got sick. She also reported that Taaran had a mask to wear, but decided that it frightened the children, so she threw it under one of the beds. She lived through the pandemic, too.

Ludvig's family was compromised. Bergit gave birth to a daughter on the February 28th, but she died shortly afterward. Ludvig was too sick to deal with her death, so my grandfather went in to Isaac Gesme's Hardware in Mt. Horeb to order a little coffin. The undertaker, Mr. Gesme, told him that he had seen a lot of these cases, and he should not be in too much of a hurry and "...give it a day or two." He said that situations like this usually did not end well. And he was right. Bergit died the next day, the 29th, and the baby was buried in her arms.

My mother remembered the farm wagon going by on the way to the cemetery the next day, March 1st. It was her birthday. There was a service at the house for the immediate family, but they were mostly too sick to even sit up for more than a few minutes. There was no service in the church. It was closed. My mother, in total, lost three aunts. One in Norway and two in America between 1918 and 1923, to various strains of that influenza.

None of us remember those days, but some of us remember diseases that we feared. Before the Salk polio vaccine, we can recall the early 1950's and remember that during the hottest days of the summer, children were not allowed to go to the swimming pool or the theater (often the only air-conditioned building in town). We often heard, "You'll catch polio and spend the rest of your life in an iron lung."

We all knew friends and relatives who had been struck with the disease. Some afflicted had curved spines, weakened legs, or wore braces and used crutches. It was very real! President Roosevelt had become paralytic from polio, and he had inspired the annual March of Dimes drive that paid for research and treatment for that disease. Every time we spent a dime, we saw his silhouette, and it was a reminder. Jonas Salk developed a vaccine that became available by 1955, but in 1956, many families waited to receive the three-shot treatment.

Now polio, smallpox, measles, mumps, and chicken pox are among the viral diseases that are reliably controlled by vaccines. Influenza is less reliably controlled, but vaccines are available. The common cold, however, still does not have a vaccine because it rarely kills, and it mutates constantly. Unfortunately, the common cold and COVID-19 have in common the fact that they are varieties of the coronavirus.

Because it mutates rapidly, making a typical vaccine will be a challenge. Continued...

The governments of the richest countries of the world are giving it top priority, but the reality of the situation is that we may be dealing with this problem for quite some time to come until we can, perhaps, control it by having a population where the majority of them are survivors with a natural immunity or resistance. For the time being, we can only hope, take precautions, and try to be more prepared for the next pandemic before it arrives. Its arrival is certain.



New 'Spaceport' Wins Funding

After losing much of its military population to other sites, Andøya, a narrow scenic island along the coast of Northern Norway, may see its fortunes revived. The Norwegian government has earmarked up to NOK 365 million to finance a new satellite launch station on the island.

Construction on the Andøya Spaceport may start this fall. "The government wants this project to be realized," Trade Minister Iselin Nybø of the Liberal Party told state broadcaster NRK recently. "This offers opportunities for a new space adventure on Andøya." It is hoped that this project can further develop knowledge and technologic competence in Norway.

The spaceport will be part of the mostly state-owned Andøya Space Center that already launches research satellites and balloons. One goal of the Spaceport is to become a European base for other small satellites that currently have waitlist for launching.

Andøya faces competition however, as similar launch projects are in Sweden, Scotland, and Portugal. Odd Roger Enoksen, a former government minister who now runs the Andøya Space Center, called the government funding "fantastic." With this funding comes the ability to secure additional financing that is also needed. "This will mean a lot, not just for Andøya but for all of Norway," Enoksen told NRK.

EMBRACING CHANGE

I am updating member e-mail addresses due to upcoming changes made to the Village's building use policy. It will affect our food fundraisers and Norwegian Baking Workshop. If you have changed your e-mail address recently, please forward it to me for correction. If your child attends college and has an independent e-mail address, receiving that information would also be helpful.

Takk,
Cheryl
rogcher@mhtc.net

Do you have a change of address?

Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email. You may make a request to discontinue the printed copy to receive an email copy notification when the newsletter is posted on www.sonsofnorway5.com.

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LODGE SHIRTS AVAILABLE!

As our focus turns to a new Lodge year, I would like to make our new members aware that there are Lodge shirts available for purchase. We offer both men's and women's heavier gauge polo shirts in either navy blue or red colors. The logo, shown here, is embroidered on one's left side of each shirt style.

Women may also opt for a stretchy knit shirt with V-neck styling. This is also available in the same color options. Both styles sell for \$21.00.

In stock: 2 women's polos in navy blue, size: XL, 1 women's V-neck knit size L

Please make Anna Olson aware of your desire to order a shirt by contacting her at: oranno@frontier.com. Indicate the style and color of shirt desired. The shirts will be ready for pick-up at the August Lodge meeting if you place your order by August 1st.



Donna Corcoran and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser cleaned the West side of the Military Ridge State Trail. If you walk the trail, your help would be appreciated with its maintenance.

MILITARY RIDGE BIKE TRAIL CLEAN-UP

Stewards of the East Side of the Military Ridge State Trail



Harley Skjervem and Tom Wulff



Kathy Wulff

Keeping our Lodge's name in the forefront of the public eye is one of our goals. Shown here are the members who helped ensure cleanliness on the Mt. Horeb portion of the M.R.S. Trail.



In Loving Memory of: Marlyn Grinde

Marlyn, nee Arneson, Grinde was born on March 17, 1924. She was a Charter member of Vennelag Lodge. A ball of fire in her earlier years, Marlyn held various leadership positions while raising six daughters. She was the chair of the Kaffe Stue while it was still being held outside under the big tent and later indoors. Marlyn stored the Lodge's history in her head and could easily recall facts and figures when needed. She is truly a legend. She supported her husband Rick while he served as Vennelag's President.

She enjoyed riding on the S.S. Vennelag ship for many years and even helped with the float clean-up when that was scheduled in her home's front yard. In her later years, Marlyn enjoyed riding inside the truck along with her daughter Lisa, as her son in law Glen pulled the boat and grandson Bo shouted to the crowds wearing the Viking costume.

Marlyn was concerned with the survival of Vennelag Lodge, following President George Sievers' passing. She advised the Board on Lodge operations and when asked, membership dynamics. She helped to calm fears when alternative decisions were made and asked hard questions. In my estimation as a new Board President, her wise counsel was priceless and ensured Vennelag's success.

Marlyn loved local history and has served on the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society Board as an advisor. Her shoes will be difficult to fill in many capacities.

It has been suggested that anyone with pictures of Marlyn from Vennelag events send them in care of her daughter, Lisa Grinde, to the home farm address: 2085 State Rd. 92, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572-2452. Takk så mye.

Agurksalat-Cucumber Salad--Marlyn Grinde

- 20-medium to large cucumbers
- 2-large onions
- 2 Tbsp. canning salt
- 1 c. white vinegar
- ¾ c. sugar
- Dill weed and pimento to taste

Peel the cucumbers in stripes, so you have some green for color, 1/2 green, 1/2 peeled slices, then cut the cucumbers thinly, along with the 2 onions.

Mix 2 heaping tablespoons of canning salt and let stand for 1 hour. Rinse with cold water until you no longer taste salt. Mix 1 cup of white vinegar and 3/4 cup sugar. Add this to the cucumber slices. If you do not have enough syrup add more.

This recipe is enough to make 5 quarts, which fills a 5-quart plastic ice cream bucket. If you want to make a smaller amount, simply half or quarter the recipe.



Marlyn created a centerpiece for the Kaffe Stue each July.



Norway Offers a Glimpse of the Future for Gas Stations

What would a world without gas stations look like? That's what fuel industry representatives have been asking themselves when they visit Norway, where electric vehicles—EVs—are quickly becoming the norm.



Around half of all new cars sold in Norway are fully electric, and the Norwegian government is planning to phase out gas-powered vehicles completely within five years.

This means Norway functions as a kind of test case for the rest of the world, allowing a glimpse of what the future might look like if roadside convenience stores no longer center on fuel in the way they do today. Because most EV charging takes place at home, simply replacing gas pumps with charging stations won't necessarily be adequate.

To stay in business, gas stations will need to find new ways to add value as drivers switch to EVs. Around the world, fuel companies are taking their cues from Norway as they consider how to adapt their business models, for instance by expanding their offerings to include things like premium food, shipping services and car repairs.

Content and Graphics: Sons of Norway News Service

VENNELAG'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

WHO: VENNELAG MEMBERS, DISTRICT 5 BOARD REPRESENTATIVES, AND GUESTS OF THE LODGE

WHAT: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LODGE'S FOUNDING

WHY: KICK UP YOUR HEELS, ENJOY A SCRUMPTIOUS DINNER, AND LIFT A GLASS TO OUR SUCCESS!

WHERE: MARTINSON HALL, 108 SOUTH 2ND STREET, MT. HOREB, WI

WHEN: SUNDAY, AFTERNOON, JULY 25, 2021

ATTIRE: BUSINESS ELEGANT. BUNADER ER VELKOMMEN. NO JEANS, PLEASE.

***MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND. ADDITIONAL UPDATES WILL BE GIVEN AS PLANS ARE FINALIZED.**

-ARLENE WATRUD-KRUEGER AND HARLEY SKJERVEM, EVENT CO-CHAIRS

VIRTUAL WALK TO NORGE

Sports Director, Steve Frame, has reported that our participants have reached Norway and are on the way home. Their current location is unknown, but it is estimated to be somewhere in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean!

VENNELAG PARTICIPANTS, ALTHOUGH NOT ALL PICTURED: Donna Corcoran, John Eberhardt, Aldeen Fjelstad, Deb Goplin, Jane and Steve Frame, Mark Hanson, Carolyn Johnson, Nancy and Duane Kittleson, Janet Robertson, Harley and Carlyce Skjervem, Steve Sopcak, Allen Watrud, Arlene Watrud-Krueger, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, Tom and Kathy Wulff



Nearly shooting a hole in 1
Nancy Kittleson.



Duane Kittleson planting annuals
at Oakwood Village University Woods.



Mark Hanson and Arlene Watrud-
Krueger leaving tread marks on the
trails around Madison.

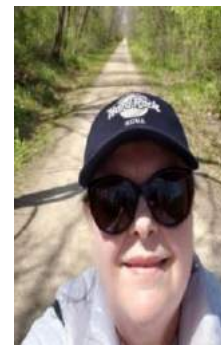


President Allen Watrud and
his high school friend, Randi,
on the -13-degree UP
Michigan Slopes

Gå på ski-go skiing!



Arlene Watrud-Krueger and
Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
snowshoeing near
Hayward, WI



Aldeen Fjelstad is making
tracks on the Military Ridge
State Trail near Verona, WI.



Giddy-Up, Casey! Carlyce Skjervem is horseback riding on her farm near Pine Bluff.



Gus, Apricot, and Harley Skjervem taking a rest at the Verona Dog Park.



Donna Corcoran is a serious biker. She is shown with her step-thru bike.

The Nordic Fest Committee has canceled its festivities for July 2020.

Our accommodations have been reserved for 2021, and the home has room for 8 members. If you are a Vennelag baker, please mark your calendar and know that you are welcome to make the journey to Decorah, July 22 & 23, 2021 when we will showcase some of our popular cookie options at Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum.

Cultural Notes from Tiffany Schwoerer

July, Annual Lodge picnic, Brigham Park, pending

August, Welcome back to a new lodge year!

Norwegian Language Bingo

2021 Tour til Norge Itinerary roll-out AND registration

September, Dana Kelly, Executive Director of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Næseth Library

Cultural offerings are available at the following websites:

www.vesterheim.org/folk-art-school (2021 classes), Decorah, IA

www.folklorevillage.org, Dodgeville, WI

www.norwayhouse.org, Minneapolis, MN

www.mthorebhistory.org, Mt. Horeb, WI

www.greaterracinecounty.com, Racine County, WI

www.goodtemplarpark.org, Geneva, IL

Visits: Colonel Heg Memorial Park, Waterford, WI, Hauge Log Church, Blue Mounds, WI, Norway House, Minneapolis, MN or Shake Rag Alley-Mineral Point, WI, The Viking Ship, Geneva, IL

Tankeløst hode får lettest sove.

“An empty head gets the easiest sleep.”

--Norwegian proverb



depositphotos.com

KAN DU KOKE?

We look forward to rolling out the new edition of Kokekunst, Culinary Arts Cookbook, at the August Vennelag Lodge meeting. The new price is \$15.00.



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!

Individual Membership \$60.00, Family Membership \$95.00.

Content and Graphics: Sons of Norway News Service

www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org

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