

Vennligfolk Newsletter

Fra
presidenten:



May June 2019



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Vennligfolk . . . this Norwegian word means "Friendly People." In my thirteen years of being a member of **Vennligfolk Lodge**, I have found this to be the perfect word to describe us. Arno and I have made so many wonderful friends by being a part of this lodge. At first, most of the members were new friends to us, but after many years I think we can say we are "old friends," a term I dearly treasure.

Recently I read a short letter on friendship written by Patrick Wood, the publisher of the Portage County Gazette. This is part of what he wrote:

"As I have grown older, the value I place on friendship has increased. Having shared history with people is something that can develop only over a long period of time. At any time you can make a new friend. But it takes years and years for someone to become an old friend.

My hope for you is that you cherish your friends and that they cherish you. It's a simple wish, yet if fulfilled it will give you happiness every day, and shelter during your sorrows."

On March 23, 2019 **Vennligfolk Lodge** lost one of our "old friends" with the passing of charter member Dr. C. Marvin Lang. He and his dear wife, Louise, are the reason Arno and I first attended **Vennligfolk Lodge** on Sunday, March 12, 2006. Marv had asked me if my fourth graders would present their reports on Norway to **Vennligfolk Lodge**. I never imagined what that would lead to!

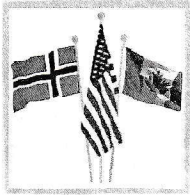
Marv was a wonderful promoter of all things Norwegian, and in my opinion, the "backbone" of **Vennligfolk Lodge**. I believe he holds the record for presenting the most programs at our lodge meetings. For many years he has been our *Vennligblad* Editor and Publicity Director. Marv faithfully collected and sent in stamps to Tubfrim. Many of you were privileged to be in his genealogy class. For me personally, Marv was one of my most cherished friends and my mentor. He gently guided me as I took the position of lodge president. And Marv worked right up to his passing. He never slowed down as he aged. What a great example!

We have huge shoes to fill with Marv's passing. Perhaps you think that you could never fill one of our open positions. I thought the same thing when a couple of members told me that they thought I should be lodge president when that position opened up. But I decided to give it a try, and here I am on my fifth year as your "presidenten." Let's follow Marv's example and step up to fill a needed position. Some of you have already taken that "step up." I am happy to announce that Carl Rasmussen has agreed to be our Newsletter Editor beginning with the July – August issue, and Mark Hansen is now leading the genealogy class. Tusen takk to these gentleman! **Vennligfolk Lodge** still needs a Publicity Director and someone to collect and send in postage stamps to Tubfrim. Are you that person? Please contact me if you are willing fill either of these positions.

So Vennligfolk members, let's cherish our friends, old and new, that we have made in our lodge. We can enjoy the happiness in each other's lives, and we can share the burdens and sorrows that come in life.

Susan Morton





Vennligfolk Announcements

“Velkommen” to our newest Vennligfolk member, Patricia Serio. Patricia recently moved to this area from Florida. After several visits to our lodge, she has decided to embrace her Norwegian heritage and formally become a member.

“Mange takk” to Bea Berg who is our new *Sunshine Coordinator*. Bea is taking over this position for Rachel Favor who recently had to step down.

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???

May 05, 2019 at 5:00 pm. (Sunday): *“Maria the Midwife”*

Glenn Borreson of Holmen, Wisconsin will be **Vennligfolk's** guest speaker and will present “stories of Norwegian Midwives in the Midwest. Note date change.

Servers: Donna Van Dreser, Arno & Susan Morton, Judy Pesanka, Tom & Rita Johnson, Karen Trzebiatowski, and Milo Harpstead Marshall: Mark Hansen

May 11, 2019 (Saturday): *“Portage County Cultural Festival”*

Again, **Vennligfolk** will have a significant part in this decades old event at SPASH.

Please look over the sign-ups (last page) for working and bringing baked goods.

“Mange takk” to the many members who have already signed up to bake and work. If you haven't signed up yet, there is still time. Please contact Susan Morton to get on the list.

May 12, 2019 at 2:00 pm. (Sunday): *“Violin and Hardanger Fiddle Concert”*

Robin Fossum from Chetek, WI will be presenting a concert in Marshfield at the Faith Lutheran Church (207 South Cherry). Robin is a concert violinist who gives a beautiful concert of music using both a violin and Hardanger fiddle.

June 02, 2019 (Sunday): "Central Wisconsin Finnish American Club Gathering" at Palmquist Farm starting at noon. **Vennligfolk Lodge** members are invited to join our Finnish friends at their annual gathering. It is a time to get together, visit, and enjoy a delicious meal & lively music. Please call Helen at 715-564-2558 by May 23rd if you are planning on coming. The Palmquist Farm is near Tomahawk, WI. I would suggest carpooling if you are planning on going.

June 20, 2019 (Thursday): "Midtsommer Fest" will again be held at South New Hope Church. Set up begins at 4:30 pm with the meal beginning shortly after 5:00 pm. There will be a food sign-up at our May 5th meeting.

September 24-25, 2019 (Tuesday – Wednesday): "Road Trip" A trip to Decorah, Iowa is being planned along with a visit to Vesterheim Museum. So far 25 **Vennligfolk** members have signed up to go. You may invite friends to join us on this road trip. The bus holds 55 people.

Officers' Meeting News

Vennligfolk officers met on April 17, 2019. One of our discussions was about purchasing a projector for the lodge. For years, a few members have graciously allowed us to use their personal projectors, but we feel it is time the lodge has its own projector to be used for lodge presentations and genealogy classes. The cost of projectors range from about \$300 to \$500. A motion was made to make this purchase.

Another topic of discussion was about our lodge covering part of the cost of the bus for our upcoming Road Trip in September. A motion was made to pay up to \$1,000 towards the cost of the bus.

Vennligfolk Lodge has sufficient funds in our treasury to cover these costs and still have a healthy amount of money left in the treasury. As a membership, we will be voting on these two motions at our May 5th lodge meeting.



Portage County Cultural Festival, Saturday, May 11, 2019

Baked Goods and Work Sign-Up

Baked Goods:

Rosettes: Nancy Schroeder & Karen Trzebiatowski

Sandbakels: Birdie Granum

Kringla: Lynn Rasmussen, Diane Beversdorf, & Susan Morton

Swedish Coffee Bread: Louise Lang

Lefse Rounds (Make ahead and freeze): Ron Hensler & Carl Rasmussen

Norwegian Almond Cake: Rita Johnson & Karen Clifford

Fudge: Kathy Clucas & Lois Hagen

Macaroons: Jane Gjevre

Norsk Sugar Cookies: Charlotte Hensler & Patti Rous

Work Schedule:

9 – 1:00: Carl Rasmussen & Lynn Rasmussen

10 – 1:00: Elaine Anderson, Glenn Aavang, Barbara Aavang, & Donna Van Dreser

10 – 3:00: Ron Hensler

12 – 3:00: Jan Flatoff, Patti Rous, Patricia Serio, & Martin Lieber

1 – 4:00: Charlotte Hensler & Jane Gjevre

3 – 5:00: (clean-up) Tom Johnson & Rita Johnson

4 – 5:00: (take down) Tom Johnson Mark Hansen

Set-up and/or wherever needed: Mark Hansen, Ozz Hagen, & Milo Harpstead

All Day: Arno Morton & Susan Morton