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Trustee (2016-2018)

Carl Rasmussen

Trustee (2017-2019)

Kress Williamson

Vennligfolk Lodge

meets the second

Sunday evening, 7:00 pm

September thru May
at Saint Paul's

United Methodist Church
600 Wilshire Blvd
Stevens Point Wisconsin

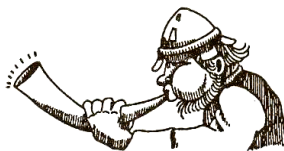
Vennligblad

Friendly pages for the 'friendly people' of Vennligfolk and their friends
Sons of Norway Lodge #5-627 for Central Wisconsin,
Stevens Point, Whiting and Plover, Wisconsin

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 3

MAI OG JUNI 2017

Fra
presidenten:



SONS OF
NORWAY

After a Wisconsin winter, I am anxious for warm & sunny days, budding trees & flowers, and some fun & leisurely days of summer. It must be in my Norwegian genes to feel that way. Recently I was reading a book about Norway that mentioned how much the Norwegians love their Midtsommer Holiday that celebrates the months of their Norwegian summer. Living in lands of short days and cold weather, Scandinavians love the sun as no other people do. In Norway, Midtsommer is celebrated around June 24th when the sun shines for twenty-four hours in the north. Homes are decorated with birch branches and flowers, and some village squares have maypoles. Around roaring bonfires is "revelry, dancing, and romancing far into the night."

Vennligfolk Lodge also celebrates Midtsommer. This year we are again holding our Midtsommer Picnic at the South New Hope Church on Tuesday, June 20, 2017. Brats, buns, coffee, and service ware will be provided by the lodge. If you did not get a chance to sign up to bring a food dish to Midtsommer at our April lodge meeting, you will get an opportunity to do that at our May 14th lodge meeting. I can't promise you a night of revelry, dancing, and romanc-



ing around a bonfire on June 20th, but I can promise you an evening of fun while we socialize and enjoy a smorgasbord of delicious food with our fellow lodge members and guests.

Mange takk to everyone who signed up to bake for and work at this year's Portage County Cultural Festival on Saturday, May 6th. It is a huge endeavor to be a part of the Cultural Festival, but many "hands" make the burden lighter. And . . . this is our lodge's main fundraiser. It's not too late if you haven't signed up yet. Just call or email me, and I will gladly sign you up.

During the month of May, you may want to stop at Lincoln Center and view the Lodge's Norwegian display in the gallery area. Many of you volunteered to have some of your Norwegian treasures displayed for the whole month. If you would like to help with the set-up, please bring your items with you and join me at Lincoln Center on Monday, May 1st at 9:00 am. I am excited that we have this opportunity to showcase Norwegian culture and Vennligfolk Lodge in our community. Our lodge is growing! "Velkommen" to Erikka Flowers who has joined Vennligfolk Lodge, and "Welcome Back" to Glenn Aavang who has rejoined our lodge.

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Gratulerer

med

dagen

May

Rachel Favor - 1
 Ozz Hagen - 4
 Helene Anderson - 12
 Kress Williamson - 14

June

Louise Lang - 24



What's Happening at Vennligfolk???

REMEMBER: Vennligfolk Lodge meets the second Sunday evening, 7:00 pm September through May at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, 600 Wilshire Blvd, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

May 6, 2017 (Saturday): "Portage County Cultural Festival"

As announced at Vennligfolk's April meeting, the Lodge is again a registered participant in the major community event. Please look at the information on page 3 and see where you fit in. Remember, this event is Vennligfolk's major fund raising event for 2017.

May 14, 2017 (Sunday - Mors Dag):

"The Sami People of Lapland"

The Sami people (also Sámi or Saami), traditionally known in English as Lapps or Laplanders, are an indigenous Finno-Ugric people inhabiting the Arctic area of Sápmi, which today encompasses parts of far northern Norway, Sweden, Finland, and the Kola Peninsula of Russia. Traditionally, the Sami have pursued a wide variety of livelihoods, including coastal fishing, fur trapping, reindeer and sheep herding. But since the Sami people are a nomadic group, moving with the seasons, and the reindeer migration, their ancestral lands are not well-defined. Vennligfolk's Arno Morton will bring the program and will present these interesting and colorful people's lifestyle, so that everyone can appreciate both the struggle and freedom that they have gone through.



Refreshments: An Ice Cream Social is planned

June 20, 2017 (Tuesday):

"Midtsommer Fest"

Vennligfolk members and friends are welcome to *Midtsommer* at the *South New Home Church*, located at 1410 County Road "T" Amherst Junction, Wisconsin on Tuesday, June 20th beginning at 5:30 p.m. We will enjoy a potluck meal, a game or two of KUBB, and possibly an outdoor bonfire (weather permitting). In any event, great Norsk fellowship will be enjoyed. Brats, buns, coffee and service ware will be provided by the Lodge so please bring either a dessert or salad or rolls or whatever you signed up for at our meeting on May 14th. Coordination of the "potluck" is essential. **Directions to SNH Church** are as follows:

Take US Hiway #10 east out of Stevens Point. To Wisc. Hiway #161 to County Road "T" and go north on "T" for approximately one mile to the church. Also, check out: <http://www.southnewhope.org>.

Continued from page 1

Even though we will not be holding our regular lodge meetings during the summer months of June, July, and August, we still have some opportunities to get together. We have a roadtrip to the Palmquist Farm on Sunday, June 4th to celebrate summer with our Finnish neighbors. Tuesday, June 20th is our Midtsommer gathering at South New Hope Church. Of course your officers will be meeting during the summer to plan for our upcoming meetings and activities. We are always looking for ideas for future meetings and roadtrips, so feel free to contact any of your officers with your ideas.

Finally, let me express my appreciation to this great group of Vennligfolk people that I am honored to serve. It's been a very full year of wonderful programs, activities, committees, roadtrips, cultural skills, community outreach, etc. that has only happened because so many of you "step up" and help make it happen. I hope you all enjoy this upcoming and needed bit of summer break.

Vennlig hilsen, Susan Morton

Celebrating Edvard Grieg



June is the month to pay homage to Norway’s most revered composer, Edvard Grieg, who was born in Bergen on June 15, 1843, in the Grieg’s family home. Here are a few notable facts about the composer culled from The Grieg Museum’s website.*

- Grieg’s most famous compositions include Piano Concerto in a minor, incidental music for Ibsen’s drama “Peer Gynt” (Morning Mood, In the Hall of the Mountain King, Solveig’s Song a.o.), Lyric

Pieces for piano, Holberg Suite, Last Spring

- He grew up in a successful merchant family, together with his brother John (born 1840) and his sisters Maren (born 1837), Ingeborg Benedicte (born 1838) and Elisabeth (born 1845). Very early he showed a strong interest in music and for the piano as instrument. He could sit at the piano for hours, exploring all kinds of tunes on his own.

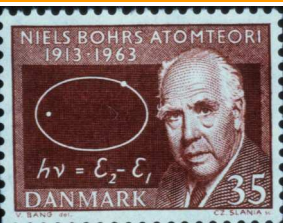
- During his early school years in Bergen, Edvard wasn’t the most disciplined pupil. He preferred to discover the music himself. Instead of the compulsory etudes, he preferred to improvise and play new tunes and melodies. However, despite the certain amount of reluctance, his love for music grew into what was to become, in his innermost spirit, the right thing to do in life – to be an artist.

- Edvard Grieg studied at the music conservatory in Leipzig, Germany. This conservatory was founded in 1843 by Felix Mendelsohn, and was reckoned to be the best and most modern conservatory in Europe. His teachers in Leipzig were some of the best pedagogues in Europe: Ignaz Moscheles in piano, Carl Reinecke in composition and Moritz Hauptmann, for whom Edvard Grieg had the greatest respect. He graduated from the conservatory with excellent marks in 1862.

- An extensive touring schedule with innumerable concerts, combined with a weak health condition, was to put an end to Grieg’s life. In September 1907 Grieg became seriously ill and was hospitalized in Bergen, where he died on Sept. 4, 1907, of chronic exhaustion.

Learn more about the Norway’s rich musical heritage by participating in Music and Musicians of Norway, a cultural skills program available to Sons of Norway members at www.sonsofnorway.com.

* <http://griegmuseum.no/en/about-grieg>



Tubfrim ...

Please remember to bring your used postage stamps to the next Vennligfolk meeting. Stamps are to be trimmed from the envelope leaving ¼” free around all edges.

Cultural Fest

Saturday, May 6, 2017

Worker Schedule

- 7:30 - 9:00 (Set Up) Arno & Susan Morton, Mark Hanson
- 9:00 - 1:00 Carl & Krista Rasmussen
- 10:00 - 1:00 Elaine Anderson, Joyce & Frances Polson
- 11:30 - 1:00 Connie Favor
- 12:00 - 3:00 Jane Gjevre
- 1:00 - 4:00 Judy Pesanka, Jerry Ugland
- 3:00 - 5:00 (clean up) Lois Hagen
- 4:00 - 5:00 (take down) Mark Hansen

Lefse “rollers”- Ozz Hagen, Carl Rasmussen, Krista Rasmussen, Ron Hensler

Baked Goods

- Rosettes: Karen Trzebiatowski, Ozz & Lois Hagen, Nancy Schroeder
- Krumkaka:
- Kringla/Puff Pastry: Lynn Rasmussen, Susan Morton, Charlotte Hensler, Diane Beversdorf
- Sandbakkels: Elaine Anderson
- Almond cake: Joyce Polson, Birdie Grannum, Diane Beversdorf
- Norsk Sugar Cookies: Rachel Favor

Other items:

- Svenska Kaffe Bröd: Louise Lang
- Premade lefse rounds: Carl & Lynn Rasmussen, Ron Hensler,

Cash Donation in lieu of baked goods:
Jan Flatoff & Martin Lieber

Please bring baked goods to SPASH by 9:00 that morning or drop off at Morton’s on Friday after 3:00 pm. [440 Cross Bow Drive - Plover; (715) 341-7248] If you are unable to fulfill your commitment, please call Susan at the above number or (715)570-9003.

This activity is the Lodge’s fundraiser for the year. Your help is necessary, needed and most appreciated.

Vennligfolk Sons of Norway has been assigned to the SOUTH COMMONS area - Parking will be available in West Lot of SPASH. Remember to wear a baseball cap or scarf.



Ole and Lena were attending a marriage seminar dealing with communication. The instructor told them it was essential that husband and wife know each other's likes and dislikes. He addressed the men; "Can you name your wife's favorite flower?" With that, Ole leaned over to Lena, touched her shoulder and whispered, "It's Pillsbury, isn't it?"

Time for Midtsommer Festivities

Is your family ready for Midtsommer? The June 24th holiday is a prime opportunity to bring a little Norwegian culture to the middle of summer. Here are a few of our favorite Midtsommer customs that you can easily bring into your household!

At its heart, Midtsommer celebrations are about connecting with the outdoors. In the past, girls would pick wildflowers and put them under their pillows at night in hopes of future good luck. Your family can easily adapt this tradition to today by taking a hike outside to enjoy a break from the normal hustle and bustle of modern life.

A good Midtsommer celebration has to include a bonfire. In pre-Christian times, bonfires were thought to awaken the Earth after its winter slumber. Today they're a great way to bring the family together and bridge the gap between Norwegian and American customs.



Just like here, many Midtsommer Eve (June 23rd) bonfires in Norway include hot dogs and s'mores, something that will likely be a big hit with your family at home. However, good food is always popular and Midtsommer is no exception. Don't be afraid to incorporate other Norwegian recipes into your celebration, too. The online Recipe Box on the Sons of Norway website is a great place to start.

Finally, once you have the family together around the bonfire and you've had your fill of food, share some Norwegian folktales. Tales of Viking adventures or trolls make for great bonfire tales and could spark an interest in your kids' Norwegian roots. The Members' Section of the Sons of Norway website is a great place to start your search for bonfire stories! However your family celebrates Midtsommer, make it a special evening!



Norwegian Muslims plan replacement Islamic council



Leyla Hasic is seen as a controversial choice for an employee at a time when the government is considering banning the niqab in schools.

Some 30,000 Norwegian Muslims could change membership to a new umbrella organization set up to replace the controversy-hit Islamsk Råd Norge (Islamic Council Norway, IRN). The purpose of the breakaway organization would be near-identical to that of IRN. "I see no other option," Basim Ghozlan, trustee at the Rabita Mosque in Oslo, told Klassekampen.

IRN's employment of niqab-wearing Leyla Hasic as an administrative consultant has sparked extensive debate on the council's role in promoting dialogue between Muslim communities and the rest of Norwegian society. The appointment of 32-year-old Leyla Hasic as an administrative consultant by Islamic Council Norway comes soon after the Ministry of Culture (Kulturdepartementet) granted almost half a million kroner (\$59,000) to help the organization with initiatives aimed at improving dialogue between Muslim communities and the rest of society, reports news media Klassekampen. But Minister of Culture Linda Hofstad Helleland wrote in a Facebook post that the appointment by the council would "create distance and less understanding."

Muslim politician Abid Raja of the centrist Liberal (Venstre) party was also critical of IRN, reports broadcaster NRK. "I am deeply disappointed with IRN's conduct. It is all-advised and undermines the relationship of trust that Muslims themselves are in need of building between themselves and the rest of Norwegian society," wrote Raja.

"What somebody has under their skin is more important than what they have on their skin," IRN's general secretary Mehtab Afsar told Klassekampen.

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Facts about Norway's Constitution

Most of us know that the Constitution was signed on May 17, 1814, a day that Norway celebrates today with massive parades and parties annually. But there are plenty more interesting facts surrounding this event, arguably Norway's greatest event in history.

- Did you know...that the Constitution that was signed and adopted is the second oldest written Constitution in the world still in existence today? At the time it was also considered to be the most forward thinking and radically democratic Constitution ever written.
- Did you know...that the Constitution underwent a linguistic revision in 1903? The overall language of the Constitution has basically remained unaltered, and the 1903 language is still used when proposed changes are made to the Constitution.
- Did you know...that the document was inspired by the United States and French constitutions? The main difference was the text that referred to Norway as a Constitutional Monarchy.
- Did you know...that within the famous portrait of the Constituent Assembly at Eidsvoll, about 70 of the 112 delegates present were painted well enough to be identified?
- Did you know...that the representatives who put the Constitution together were under great pressure to finish the document? The Constitution was written and signed in 5 weeks. The January 14, 1814 Kiel Treaty said that Denmark would relinquish control over Norway to Sweden. During that transition of power Norway was considered an independent kingdom. In taking full advantage of that control a Constituent Assembly was put together, a King was appointed and a Constitution was written.

Happy Syttende Mai

Today's Recruitment Goals Fuel Future Success



Sons of Norway Headquarters is pleased to announce the launch of its 2017 recruitment campaign – a revamped and expanded Founders Day Awards. With our 125th anniversary fast approaching, the new campaign reinforces the vision of Sons of Norway's founders for an organization that celebrates its roots while continuing to look toward the future.

With the new Founders Day Award, lodges that reach their target recruitment goal are rewarded with a number of prizes. These include a \$200 cash card the lodge may use toward a celebration of reaching its goal, exclusive access to a new program for lodge members, and more.

Lodge Vice Presidents recently received additional information about the 2017 Founders Day contest as well individualized goals for recruitment. These goals were developed to align with Sons of Norway's overall goal of welcoming 3,500 new members in 2017, just one of the ambitious organizational goals developed by Sons of Norway's International Board of Directors.

The 2017 Founders Day campaign is an opportunity for all members to get involved and support not only their lodges, but help grow the organization. Keep up with the Sons of Norway blog and e-Post throughout the year for ways you can help Sons of Norway and find lodge success stories.

Join the conversation about growing Sons of Norway into the future - find us on Twitter @SonsofNorway or on our Facebook page. Better yet - share how you or your lodge is working toward the future by using #Growingto2020.

Both the Bosnian and Albanian mosques in the capital have already announced that they would leave the umbrella of Muslim organizations represented by the council. The combined membership of the two mosques is 14,000. Three other mosques—Islamic Cultural Centre and Central Jamaat-e Ahl-e Sunnat, along with the Rabita Mosque—have also begun to withdraw their memberships. The three represent some of Norway's largest and oldest mosques, according to Klassekampen. Ghozlan said that he had decided to start an alternative organization because he felt that IRN in its current form was not fulfilling its mandate. "On one hand we want to have an ongoing dialogue with general society, fight misunderstandings, and prevent distrust. On the other hand we want to strengthen collaboration between Muslim organizations," he told Klassekampen.

Ghozlan pointed out that he began the process of setting up a new organization prior to IRN's hiring of Hasic. Afsar told broadcaster NRK that membership of the organization was voluntary. "We cannot force members to stay. If one or two leave, we will still be an umbrella organization," he said.

Reference: *Norwegian American*; 4-7-2017

A preacher stopped Bjarne on the street and asked for directions to the Post Office. After receiving the information, the preacher said, "By the way, I would like to invite you to come hear me preach tonight. I'll be preaching about how you can get to heaven. Will you be there?"
 "No way," said Bjarne. "You can't even find your way to da Post Office. How can you give directions to heaven!"

a little in English...

Kids Will Now Have Time to Eat

Schoolchildren should not have to gobble their lunches. The [Norwegian] government wants kids to have 20 minutes to eat.

"Now the children will have time to eat their lunches. It is important to set aside time for this. Both for diet and health," says Torbjørn Røe Isaksen to news agency NTB. He is [Norway's] Minister of Education.

The government and Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Affairs want children to have more time to eat. They advise about 20 minutes for lunchtime. For everyone.

"We know that mealtimes at many schools disappear into many other things. Some students in Norway receive five or ten minutes to devour their lunch. No more," says Isaksen.

This advice is part of a plan for a better diet. It applies to all of Norway. Only half of the primary schools in Norway have a lunch break of 20 minutes.

Schools and municipalities get to decide how the school day goes. And how long students will have for breaks.

"Kids get very little time to eat. Many parents will recognize this. It creates bad attitudes towards having a good lunch break," says Isaksen.

"The government does not want to control municipalities. They're calling it a request. But that could change if schools don't follow suit," he said.

litt på norsk...

Nå skal barna få tid til maten

Skolebarn skal slippe å sluke matpakka. Regjeringen vil at barna skal få 20 minutter til å spise på.

Nå må barna få tid til å spise matpakka si. Det er viktig å få satt av tid til dette. Både for kosthold og helse, sier Torbjørn Røe Isaksen til nyhetsbyrået NTB. Han er kunnskapsminister.

Regjeringen og Helse-direktoratet vil at barn skal få mer tid til å spise. De kommer med et råd om 20 minutter spisetid. For alle.

Vi vet at spisetiden på mange skoler forsvinner i masse annet. En del elever i Norge får fem eller ti minutter til å sluke en matpakke. Ikke noe mer, sier Isaksen.

Rådet står i en plan for et bedre kosthold. Den gjelder for hele Norge. Bare halvparten av grunnskolene i Norge har matpause på 20 minutter.

Skolene og kommunene kan bestemme hvordan skoledagen skal være. Og hvor lange pauser elevene får.

– Barna får veldig kort tid til å spise. Mange foreldre vil kjenne seg igjen i dette. Det skaper dårlige holdninger til både det å ha en god matpause, sier Isaksen.

Regjeringen ønsker ikke styre kommunene. De kaller det en oppfordring. Men det kan endre seg om ikke skolene følger etter, sier han.

Spotlight on Vesterålen

Vesterålen, nicknamed the "Green Alps," is known for its soft, lush landscape and its prime location for viewing Norway's stunning Northern Lights. The archipelago comprises six municipalities over four large islands and is located just north and east of Lofoten.

Located on the edge of the continental shelf and given its proximity on the Gulf Stream path, Vesterålen is an excellent site for whale watching. In fact, the Whale Center in Andenes offers guaranteed whale-watching safaris. Other activities for travelers include hiking, kayaking, fishing and lighthouse experiences.



Want to learn more about this northern destination? Check out www.visitvesteralen.com.

Veiled Peasant Girls (Tilslørte bondepiker)

Authentic Norwegian Cooking
Astrid Karlsen Scott



- ½ lb. apples
- ½ cup water
- 3/8 cup approx. sugar
- 2½ tbsp. butter
- 2 cups white bread, dried and ground
- 3/8 cup sugar
- 1½-2 cups heavy cream
- ½ tsp. pure vanilla extract

Peel and core apples, and cut in wedges. Cook in the water until tender. Be careful not to scorch. Add sugar to taste. Stir to the consistency of applesauce, but leave a few whole bits of apple. Cool.

Melt the butter or margarine in a frying pan. Add the bread crumbs and sugar. Mix and brown over medium heat. Turn constantly with a spatula as they brown. The bread can easily be burnt if it is not stirred all the time. The crumbs should be a light caramel color. When done spread on platter to cool.

Whip cream until firm and glossy, adding a little vanilla if desired. Layer bread crumbs, applesauce and whipped cream in a glass bowl. Place a layer of cream on top. Sprinkle a few crumbs on top for garnish. Serves 4.

Midtsommer Campfire Bread and Hot Dogs

Adapted from www.thefamilydinnerbook.com

- 1½ cup warm water
- 3 tsp active dry yeast
- 4 cups (or more) all purpose flour
- 1 tsp sugar
- 2 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp olive oil + a little extra
- 12 Hot dogs
- Long sticks, bamboo poles or metal skewers
- Ketchup and mustard

Mix warm water and yeast in a bowl or standing mixer. Let stand for 5 minutes or until yeast dissolves.

Add remaining ingredients, stirring until well combined. If using a standing mixer, mix with dough hook for 5 minutes, otherwise transfer dough mixture to lightly floured surface. Knead until smooth, add flour in increments if dough is sticky. Continue kneading for at least 5 minutes. Cover with plastic wrap and let dough rise in a warm area until the dough doubles in size, roughly 1 hour.

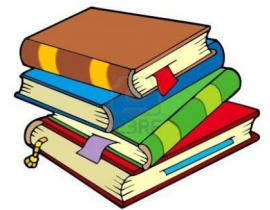
Punch dough down and drizzle with olive oil. Transfer to a portable bowl with a lid.

Prepare a fire and let it burn down to red coals. Thread a hot dog onto a skewer or stick. Take a small plum sized portion of dough and roll between hands until you have a rope. Twist dough around hot dog and hold over coals, rotating until bread is golden and cooked and hot dog is warmed.

Adults Get Help with Reading and Math

In Norway, volunteer organizations are receiving money to help adults with reading, writing and math.

Altogether 79 nonprofits will be helping adults. The organizations will hold courses in reading, writing, math and computer skills. The organizations have received 25 million kroner from the Ministry of Education. The money will give people the knowledge they need to get a job and for life in general.



“It is positive that several volunteer organizations are helping adults. [They are] making voluntary contributions in an important way so that adults acquire new knowledge,” says Minister Torbjørn Røe Isaksen.



Many different nonprofits will organize courses. Money will go toward training that will take place among other places in shelters, volunteer centers, prisons and libraries. Organizations such as the Red Cross, Mental Helse (a mental health-focused organization), Caritas Norway (a Catholic development and relief organization) and Folkeuniversitetet (adult continuing education) are some of those who will receive money.

They will first and foremost help adults with little education. People should be helped where they live. You can look up where the nearest courses are arranged.

“The nonprofits meet adults in many different places. Adults who are not working also need new skills. Often, new knowledge allows them to participate in public life. This can result in their getting a job,” says Gina Lund. She is director of Kompetanse Norge (the Norwegian Institute for Adult Learning), which has the responsibility of distributing the funding.



Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627
 Marv Lang, *Editor*
 3015 Cherry Street
 Stevens Point, WI 54481 U.S.A.



Sunday, May 14, 2017
“The Sami People of Lapland”
 with Arno Morton

Tuesday, June 20, 2017
“Midtsommer Fest”
 at South New Hope Church

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.

Norway Tops the Global Happiness Rankings for 2017

According to this year’s World Happiness Report, Norway has jumped from 4th place in 2016 to 1st place this year, followed by Denmark, Iceland and Switzerland in a tightly packed bunch.

All of the top four countries rank highly on all the main factors found to support happiness: caring, freedom, generosity, honesty, health, income and good governance. Their averages are so close that small changes can re-order the rankings from year to year. Norway moves to the top of the ranking despite weaker oil prices. It is sometimes said that Norway achieves and maintains its high happiness not because of its oil wealth, but in spite of it. By choosing to produce its oil slowly, and investing the proceeds for the future rather than spending them in the present, Norway has insulated itself from the boom and bust cycle of many other resource-rich economies. To do this successfully requires high levels of mutual trust, shared purpose, generosity and good governance, all factors that help to keep Norway and other top countries where they are in the happiness rankings.

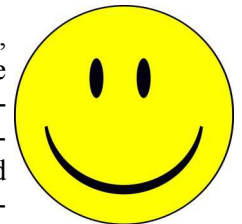
All of the other countries in the top 10 also have high values in all six of the key variables used to explain happiness differences among countries and through time – income, healthy life expectancy, having someone to count on in times

Vennligblad, the official newsletter of Sons of Norway’s Vennligfolk Lodge (#5-627), is published at the beginning of the odd-numbered months of the year. If you have an item of interest to Vennligfolk members, please submit it to the Editor by the 15th of the even-numbered months. You may send it to Marv Lang at 3015 Cherry Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by e-mail to cmlang@charter.net.



Mange Tusen Takk, Marv Lang, *Editor*

of trouble, generosity, freedom and trust, with the latter measured by the absence of corruption in business and government. Here too there has been some shuffling of ranks among closely grouped countries, with this year’s rankings placing Finland in 5th place, followed by the Netherlands, Canada and New Zealand; and Australia and Sweden tied for the 9th position, having the same 2014-2016 score to three decimals.



The USA is a story of reduced happiness, according to the report. In 2007 the USA ranked 3rd; in 2016 it came in 19th.

Reference - Helliwell, J., Layard, R., & Sachs, J. (2017). *World Happiness Report 2017*, New York: Sustainable Development Solutions Network.