



Coming Attractions

Monthly Meeting
April 18th 6PM
First United Luth Church
2401 Kohler Mem. Dr.
Sheboygan

May 16th
Banquet & Awards
Recognition
TBA



the Vennskap Lodge News

Vennskap Lodge 5-622

Sheboygan Falls, Wi 53085

April, 2017

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April Showers Bring...Spring?

With any luck at all, winter might be history! Then again, I've put the snow shovels away twice, and it snowed twice. Now the shovels stay out until the tulips are full bloom. What a winter. Slush changes to snow that continues falling until it becomes encased in slippery ice. It must be Wisconsin!. Everyone is ready to get out of the house to pick up all the wind-blown twigs and enjoy the warm sunshine that is sure to come.

Our Vennskap program committee has put together some very interesting projects for the year. Several members have been spending their winter time with cultural projects and sharing their experiences with us. Check out some of these activities mentioned at our last meeting and notice some of the opportunities that are available.

Something for everyone: Cooking to sewing, woodworking, reading and writing. Carolyn has been leading the last group and they have been busy! Rumors are rampant concernng a bus trip and, of course, a lutefisk dinner will be the usual "full house sold-out" attraction open to the public. Get your ticket early!

We've had some members who have had a tough time this winter fighting various ailments, and hopefully, warmer weather and the sight of sunshine will be a welcome cure for everything that ails us all! It's time for spring, new buds on the trees and the end to winter blahs. Joy Bashara will get us on the right track at our next meeting! See you there!



Gratulerer Med Dagen!

April

Elizabeth Humke3
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Betty Hodson14
Kyle Waters (Heritage)16
Braden Dickrell (Heritage)22
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May

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Don Shawhan7
Anita Thomas.....8
Clara Soto.(Heritage.)11
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Joanne Zschetzsche31



Happy Birthday!

From Our President:

Greetings, Dear Fellow Sons of Norway Members –

Have you heard or read which Country has been judged the most happy?
You guessed it – NORWAY !!!!

Of course we've known that all along. The fun and camaraderie we have at our meetings attests to that.

What a way to start a new season. Was wonderful to see so many good friends again. Cultural and Sports Director, Steve Olsen presented Cultural Awards to Inez Jurgens, Art Thomas, Anita Thomas, Joyce, and Laurie for 3 levels of Genealogy, Anita 3 levels for Cooking, and Carolyn Johnson 3 levels for Mentoring the Cultural Skills Program. I personally can attest to the enjoyment we have at these weekly-meetings. Carolyn is a dedicated and entertaining mentor and definitely goes the extra mile in helping us to attain these goals. Having lunch together afterwards is a perfect way to end the morning. If you have been considering trying one of the Norwegian Skills, try working on them with the group. We all know there is enjoyment in numbers.

And what a program we had! Patti Jo Walter, owner of Francis Creek Fjord in Two Rivers, shared her knowledge and love for the beautiful Fjord Horse with us. Did you know that these stunning horses migrated to Norway over 4,000 years ago and have been selectively bred for over 2,000 years? Few can resist their gentle manner and huge tender eyes.

Our favored kitchen Queen treated us with a taste of things to come. Delicious chili, wasn't it? If you have a favorite Chili recipe, consider making a batch and enter it in the 1st Annual Chili Cook-off which will be held at our annual Picnic at Lincoln Park in June. Entries will be judged by members. Chili for Norwegians? Well, District 5 is encouraging Lodges to hold this "Social Extravaganza", and prizes will be awarded. Join the fun!

Ginny Mikkelson, our Activity Director, shared our Activity Calendar with us. A great variety of programs including a trip to Mt. Horeb and of course our fantastic Annual Lutefisk Dinner at Lakeland University in November. Stay tuned for more details.

Check your calendars – hopefully you will be able to attend these well-planned events. You won't be sorry. The more the merrier, you know! Again, Mange Takk for making our events so enjoyable – to those who plan and to those who attend.

Laurie Shawhan
President



This just in.... From District Five....

It's time to kick-off Sons of Norway's 2017 member recruitment campaign, and I'm pleased to share with you that a new recruitment goal is one of the 2017 strategic goals recently adopted by the International Board:

Attain 375 new insurance members Achieve \$5.5 million in total life insurance premiums

Accomplish \$20 million in total annuity premiums

Acquire 3,500 new members

Arrive at \$200,000 Foundation funds raised



Carolyn Johnson has been leading an active group of Vennskap members who have been working on various Sons of Norway projects earning medals, pins and knowledge of their heritage while enjoying their companionship in their activity.



Joyce Loritz, Inez Jurgens, Art Thomas, Anita Thomas, Mary Ellen Peterson and Laurie Shawhan all earned levels 1-2-3 for genealogy. Anita Thomas earned levels 1-2-3 for Cooking while Carolyn Johnson earned Mentor 1-2-3 for Genealogy.



Anita Thomas also earned special recognition from District 5 for having the most (6) skills in the time period.!



Cultural Director Steve Olsen congratulates Art Thomas for his achievements.

Bronze
Gold
Silver
Enamel



President Laurie Shawhan receives special mention for her cultural work.



Our new Program Director Ginny Mikkelson brings us up to date on what to expect on our upcoming projects for the year.



Candace Snider, who couldn't make the meeting, earned an Athletic Achievement Award .

Many opportunities!
Cultural projects from carving, woodwork, cooking, hardanger, something for everyone!
What's your interest?

Join the fun!



Patti Jo Walter, owner of Francis Creek Fjord in Two Rivers.

Patti loves to raise, train and show famous Norwegian Fjord Horses. These “dunn colored”, or brown horses may be pony-sized, but are well suited to the hilly areas of Norway farms. Her first horse “Lena” was followed by the next fjord, naturally named “Ole” as her stable of fjord horses grew. Everyone is aware of that dark streak of black that always appears from the ears, along the center of the back, and down to the tail, but Patti assured us that “No one painted each horse that way, God did.” An informative and very interesting program was enjoyed by a very appreciative Vennskap audience.

Norway has their National Horse, but did you know they also have a National Dog?

The Norwegian Buhund



The Norwegian Buhund is a breed of dog of the spitz type. The Buhund is used as an all purpose farm and herding dog, as well as watch dog. The name Buhund is derived from the Norwegian word "bu", which means farm, homestead or mountain hut (where the shepherd lived while looking after his herd in the summer), and "hund" which means dog. It can be seen in many colors from white to orange! Even black!

Meet our Newest Vennskap Member.. Kirt Johnson from Kewaunee

Kirt’s Norwegian roots come from his mother’s side of the family, Dolcye Johnson, who is 100% Norwegian., while his father is half Swedish, half Danish. Kirt, a graduate of St. Olaf., mentioned that he has done extensive family genealogy, traveling to Norway six times where he visited family farms and got to know his Norwegian cousins.



After spending a few years in Washington, DC on Capitol Hill, Kirt attended law school at UW-Madison, then returned to Washington, DC to continue his career on Capitol Hill, eventually becoming a tax lobbyist. Kirt served in many positions on Capitol Hill for a number of Congressmen, starting at the bottom of the rung as an intern and eventually serving as Chief of Staff for two different Congressmen. Some of the Congressmen Kirt worked for include Bill McCollum (FL), Phil Crane (IL), Tom Petri (WI) and Sean Duffy (WI). Kirt grew up in Sheboygan and after a number of decades in Washington, DC just recently moved back to Wisconsin and is now residing in Kewaunee.

Vennskap Lodge participants have been active, receiving recognition in the Cultural Projects offered by SON.

From Friendly Fifth newsletter ~ Darlene Arneson, Dist. Secretary
Lodge 622 – Vennskap

Lodge with the most members receiving cultural skills pins

Carolyn Johnson – Mentor Genealogy 1.2.3

Inez Jurgens – Genealogy 1.2.3

Joyce Loritz – Genealogy 1.2.3

Mary Ellen Oppegaard Peterson – Genealogy 1.2.3

Laurie Shawhan – Genealogy 1.2.3

Anita Thomas – Genealogy 1.2.3 – Cooking 1.2.3

(Anita is the winner with the most cultural skills pins for this time period)

Arthur Thomas – Genealogy 1.2.3.

Cultural Skills Contest

In 2017, there will be a slight change to the contest. The contest will still go in six month segments, January-June and July-December with a winner for each zone. The lodge with the most members receiving cultural skills pins in each six month period will win for that time period. The contest will end at the end of 2017. It will be evaluated during the spring of 2018, when the decision will be made as to the best format for the contest. You can be a winner just one time, so if you have won, be a mentor to another member and help them with a cultural skill. Plan some of your lodge meetings around a cultural skill. If you have questions, please contact Esther Charlton, esthersofn@aol.com

Are you ready for “ Norwegian 101”?

Due to popular demand, The Norwegian National Anthem will be reviewed and sung by members of the Vennskap Singers (you) at our next meeting. Norwegian dialect by Anne Bruechert and assistant Dell Solberg.

Ja, vi elsker

Phonetically, English

Ja, vi el-sker det-te lan-det, som sti-ger frem.

Yah, vee ellskur deh-tuh lawn-an, sum-day stee-gur frehm

Yes, we love this land of ours as with mountain domes.

Furet vaerbitt over vannet med de tusen hjem,

Foo-ret vair-bit awe-vair vah-nuh may dee two-sun yem.

Storm-lashed o'er the sea it towers with the thousand homes.

Elsker, elsker det og tanker på vår far og mor

Ell-skur, ell-skur day awe teng-kur, paw vavr fahr awe moor

Love it dearly, ever thinking of our father's strife

Og den saganatt som senker drømme på vår jord,

Awe din saw-gah-not sum seng-kour Dru-meh paw vawt yoor,

and the land of Saga sending, dreams upon our life.

Og den saganatt som senker, senker drømme på vår jord.

Awe denn sah-gah-not sum seng-kour. Seng-kour drum-meh paw vavr yoor.

And the land of Saga sending, sending dreams upon our life.

Sons of Norway, Vennskap Lodge
Meeting Minutes: March 22, 2016
6:00 p.m., First Lutheran Church, Manitowoc
Officers Present: Laurie Shawhan (president), Signe Jorgenson (secretary),
Mikk Mikkelson (acting treasurer)



Signe Jorgenson
Secretary

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order by President Laurie Shawhan at 6:07 p.m.

Treasurer's Report:

Mikk Mikkelson reported on the balance of the general fund.

Announcements:

The lodge welcomed new member Kirt Johnson and guest Patti Jo Walter.

Ginny Mikkelson provided a briefing on the lodge's planned 2017 activities.

Highlights include the annual banquet on Tuesday, May 16 (location TBA), the lodge picnic and chili cook-off at Lincoln Park on June 11, a trip to Mt. Horeb on September 19, and the annual Lutefisk Dinner on November 12. Additional details will be provided as the events approach.

Laurie Shawhan announced the new member drive for District 5. The goal is to recruit 20 new members. Everyone is encouraged to tell friends and family about Sons of Norway, invite interested parties to a meeting, etc.

Steve Olsen distributed sports and cultural skills awards. Candace Snyder received a sports award for running; Inez Jurgens, Joyce Lortiz, Mary Ellen Peterson, Laurie Shawhan, Art Thomas, and Anita Thomas earned award for genealogy levels 1-3; and Carolyn Johnson earned an award for genealogy mentorship.

Mikk Mikkelson shared a letter from the Salvation Army, written by a mother who benefits from the organization's services, to thank us for our contribution.

Mikk Mikkelson announced that he recently discovered a box of artifacts including the charter, newsletter archives dating back to the '90s, songbooks, a variety of plaques, and other miscellanea. He seeks suggestions for what should be done with these items since we do not have a lodge building where they can be stored or displayed.

Attendance Drawing:

There were 29 members and 1 guest present. Mary Olsen won the \$5 attendance drawing; Dollie Dickerell, Paul Berge, and Mikk Mikkelson won photos of Norwegian Fjord Horses.

No new or old business was conducted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Program:

Local riding instructor Patti Jo Walter of Francis Creek gave a presentation on Norwegian Fjord Horses. Highlights included discussion of the breed's history, temperament, and popularity in Norway, Germany, and the U.S.

Minutes submitted by Signe Jorgenson

Read any good books lately?
I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

The Lady's Page

Raspberry Cake (Ruth Nilsen & Vi Rue)



1 white cake mix with pudding
3 oz pkg raspberry jello
2 10-oz pkgs frozen raspberries,
thawed and undrained
4 eggs
1/2 cup oil
1/4 cup hot water
12 oz Cool Whip

Grease and flour 9x13" pan.

In large bowl, mix dry cake mix and jello. Add one package raspberries with juice, eggs, oil and water. Blend well.

Bake at 350 degrees about 35 minutes. Cool.

Frost with: fold 1 pkg raspberries with juice into 12 oz container Cool Whip.

Spread on cake and refrigerate.

If you break an egg on the floor, sprinkle it heavily with salt - leave for 10 minutes, then sweep into dust pan. Let me know...

A blessed Easter to all!

Easter Sunday is one of the most festive events among Christians worldwide. It commemorates Jesus Christ's resurrection from death.



Norway's Easter (Påske) ~ no Easter bunny but chicken and eggs. Norwegians climb mountains to watch the sunrise and ski. Watch movies and read books about crime. And you thought it weird to bite the head off your chocolate bunny?

Sweden's Easter (Påsk) ~ is a secular family occasion with the focus on opening and cleaning the family summer house. Swedes enjoy the candy and will also possibly be eating herring and salmon and drinking spiced schnapps.

Finland's Easter (Påsha) ~ has little witches clearing the home of evil spirits by waving twigs. Since some witches are evil, Finns keep large bonfires burning to keep these witches away.

Denmark's Easter (Påske) ~ a 1600s game involves making paper snowflakes marked by riddles and signed with dots. The receiver guesses who sent it. Shops and homes are decorated in yellows and greens (Packer colors!) to celebrate Spring. More men than women emigrated in 1800's and they often married women of other nationalities but retained Danish traditions.



In European history, monks provided an early treat to the poor during Lent by making them hot cross buns!

Lost shrine of Norway's 1,000-year-old Viking king uncovered! Archaeologists claim to have found the church where Saint Olaf was buried .

Researchers had discovered the foundations of a wooden church where the body of King Olaf Haraldsson was taken immediately after he was declared a saint in 1031.

The site is in Trondheim, where Olaf was buried after his death in battle. After locals began circulating stories about miracles credited to the dead king, his grave was opened, and his body was found to be miraculously well preserved. The local bishop declared him a saint and reinterred his body in St. Clement's Church. While excavating, they found stone foundations, and even a small rectangular platform made of rock on the building's east end. According to NIKU, in a press release. "This is probably the foundation for an altar – probably the very same altar on which St. Olaf's coffin was placed in 1031." Olaf's remains were later moved to a larger church in Trondheim, upon which Nidaros Cathedral was built.



St. Clement's Church was demolished in the 13th century and its location remained a mystery until NIKU archaeologists unearthed the site in Trondheim, which was dated to the time of Olaf's rule.



April 18-Sheboygan - Joy Bashara
May 16-Manitowoc-Banquet & Awards Recognition
June 11-Sunday-Manitowoc Picnic-Lincoln Park
July 18-Manitowoc-Civil War Singers
August 15-Sheboygan-Our Ancestors
September 19-Trip to Mt. Horeb
October 17-Sheboygan- Carolyn & Cultural Skills Group
November 12-Lutefisk Dinner- Lakeland University
December- No Meeting