



Coming Attractions

Monthly Meeting
March 21st 6 PM
First Lutheran Church
521 North 8th St.
Manitowoc

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



the Vennskap Lodge News

Vennskap Lodge 5-622

Sheboygan Falls, Wi 53085

March, 2017

Volume 25, Issue 1

It's over ! It's over!
This weird winter is over!

It has been said that Swedish meteorologists define the beginning of spring as the first occasion on which the average daytime temperature exceeds zero degrees Celsius for seven consecutive days. Converting that to our F° scale, that would be 32° F for a week. By comparison, we have had a very nice winter to this point. However, we are still chopping ice that has been on our driveway for the last two months hidden from the sun. But things are looking up! The call has gone out to our Vennskap friends that it is safe to get back to enjoying our companionship furthering the Nordic spirit and learning more about our Scandinavian ancestors. It's been an unusual winter weatherwise and news centered around the television sets. Hopefully, warmer weather and sunshine will be mellowing factors for everyone. Winter also seems to bring out several ailments and perhaps the change of seasons will be the cure. There will be better days ahead! Join us as we begin our new chapter in 2017. It's time to SPRING in the Vennskap Lodge 5-622 year! Bring your winter-experiences to share and renew "Old Friendships" with new innovative thoughts on how we can make this year an even better year than ever before!. See you at the meeting!



Gratulerer Med Dagen!

March

Table listing birthdays for March: Joyce Milsted, Ellen Hansen, Amber Kreif, Sally Neuhaus, Grant Neumann, Kathryn Mealy, Marjorie Giesen, Arvold Mikkelson, Matthew Gruetzmacher, Chloe Bruechert.

April

Table listing birthdays for April: Doris Fredericksen, Betty Hodson, Kayle Waters, Brenda Dickrell, Janet Hellestad, Emily Waters.



Happy Birthday!

From Our President:

Greetings, Dear Vennskap Friends –

Well, the chilly busy or calm warm months have passed (depending on your schedules and locations) and it's time to renew our Vennskap friendships and activities celebrating our mutual heritage. I, personally, have missed your friendly faces and cheerful countenances and am looking forward to our getting together once again. I hope to hear what many of you have been up to.

Our Activities Committee will be meeting after writing this note, so there isn't much in the way of goings-on to share with you. HOWEVER, the program for our first meeting, which will be held at First Lutheran here in Manitowoc, is planned. Thanks to Inez Jurgens, we will be learning about the beautiful and amazing Fjord Horses. Word is it that they are considering moving, so we definitely are grateful we are

able to have their program before they leave. Pray for (or keep your fingers crossed, whichever works for you) that we'll have good weather so many of you will be able to attend and celebrate our heritage with us.

Fondly,
Laurie

Here's something interesting!

SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL

(Grieg Chorus & Stoughton Norwegian Dancers)

Verona Area Performing Arts Center Verona, WI

Mar 19, 2017 2:00 PM

Show begins at 2:00 p.m. on SUNDAY, March 19, 2017. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

Student (18 and under) \$5.00 (\$6.17 w/service fee)

Regular Adult (19-64 years) \$10.00 (\$11.34 w/service fee)

Senior (over 65 years) \$10.00 (\$11.34 w/service fee)

Norway Is the 'World's Best Democracy' — We Asked Its People Why

by Alexander Smith and Ben Adams NBC News

The United States was downgraded to a "flawed democracy" in a recent index that examined 167 countries. NBC News traveled to the world's top-ranked democracy, Norway, to ask them how it's done.

In an interview, a young Norwegian girl was asked if she was planning to vote. She was almost shocked at that question answering that voting was a routine thing to do! "It's very strange not to vote," says the 18-year-old, as if stating the painfully obvious. "It's, like, a normal thing."

Her country has just been ranked the best democracy in the world for the sixth year running by the Economist Intelligence Unit, a London-based consultancy.

The report also downgraded the United States from a "full democracy" to a "flawed democracy" — placing it alongside countries such as India, Argentina and Colombia.

The demotion was linked to American voters losing trust in their own political institutions and the role of big-money lobbying. Norwegians are automatically registered to vote, and 78 percent of them did so in the last election — 20 percentage points higher than in the U.S. The key to Norway's success is the healthy relationship between its people and lawmakers, according to 27-year-old political adviser Torkil Vederhus.

"People can feel like they're part of the democracy," he says. "They recognize their politicians as not part of some kind of elite, they're just regular people."

There are eight political parties in Norway's legislature — instead of just Republicans and Democrats — and the system means none of them can gain power alone. Instead they must try to build coalitions with enough support to form a government. "You have a lot of cooperation between parties in Norwegian politics . . . and the political debate climate is much milder than in the U.S.," according to Carl Knutsen, a politics professor at the University of Oslo. "I would say [there is] more cooperation and less confrontation."



Read any good books lately?



This is a “screen grab” from Sons of the Norway web-site.

“Sons of Norway's Cultural Skills Program provides a framework for learning about traditional and contemporary Norwegian culture. Each unit consists of three levels of skill-specific activities to guide you as you learn. You can complete the units on your own, through your lodge or through a special class or group. For each level, you'll complete a few activities, email (or mail) them in to Sons of Norway Headquarters, get feedback, and earn a pin in recognition of your accomplishments.”

Long winter nights can be filled with political news, but when the TV is turned off, many pick up an interesting book and enjoy! SON has many projects and subjects to do, study, learn and enjoy. Vennskap members have joined with friends as they have explored their genealogical backgrounds, woodworking projects, music, as well as reading about the traditions and life in Norway. Perhaps you have been doing your ‘thing’, or thinking about doing! Check out our Vennskap library and maybe...
turn off the TV!

Pictured:

■ Askeladden 610, Kalamazoo, MI—The lodge adds some Nordic flair to Kalamazoo's holiday parade with a troll, Father Christmas and nisser (Ryah Stoneburner and Lill Briggs). ■ Vennskap 622, Sheboygan Falls, WI—Marvin and Shirley Moen and Terry Bruechert donate their time and represent their lodge as bell ringers for the Salvation Army. ■ Nordlandet 620, Minocqua, WI—Syttende Mai festivities bring together Charlotte Schowalter, guest speaker Paul Hesse and Lodge President Fred Olsen for

Or, put on your jacket and do a good deed!

Did you notice the photo on page 32 of the latest Viking magazine - March 2017 in District 5?

Marvin and Shirley Moen with Terry Bruechert represented Vennskap Lodge 5-622 in a community project for The Salvation Army.



2017 Vennskap Calendar Under Construction

March 21 - Manitowoc
April 18 - Sheboygan
May ____ - Banquet & Awards Recognition - Millhome Supper Club ?
We need a committee for this - any suggestions ?
June 11 - Sunday - Picnic - Lincoln Park - Manitowoc area
July 18 - Manitowoc
August 15 - Sheboygan - get nominating committee
September 19 - Manitowoc
October 17 - Sheboygan - present slate of officers and vote
November 21 - Manitowoc -
November - Lutefisk Dinner - Lakeland University
December - no meeting

Believe it or not!

Last winter, Lena was chosen to be a contestant on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" and had reached the final plateau. Regis told her "if you answer the next question correctly, you would win \$1,000,000." When Lena said that she was ready, Regis continued.. "Your final question for one million dollars is..

Which of the following species of birds does not build its own nest, but instead lays its eggs in the nests of other birds? Is it

A) the condor; B) the buzzard; C) the cuckoo; or D) the vulture?"

Lena didn't even hesitate : She said "That's easy. The answer is C: The cuckoo."

"Is that your final answer?" asked Regis. "Yes, that is my final answer."

Regis took a dramatic pause and said, "you are....absolutely correct. You are now a millionaire!"
.Ater the appalause ended, Regis asked "How did you happen to know the right answer?"

"Oh, come on!" said Lena. "Everybody knows that cuckoos don't build nests.
They live in clocks."



House for Sale..

So soon?

Elaine and Dick Bronson's house is sold and they're settling into their RiverView area.

Elaine mentioned that they didn't tell the new owners about the ghost they had at Ruby Lane, however.
(That's understandable! Who'd buy a haunted house?).



They were living next to a cemetery and one night, Elaine said she glanced out her window and saw a spooky wavy thing over one of the stones. She mentioned to Dick that one of the 'residents' must have a visitor, and was afraid that Dick might get into trouble if he went out there, but he had to investigate, anyway! Coming back in, he told her not to be afraid. A gas-station was having a grand-opening in Manitowoc and was shining a search-light up into the clouds. The clouds reflected the beam down into the graveyard and shined through the night ground-fog over the cemetery. At least, that's what Dick said! You never know!

THE STORY OF HAROLD THORSON
AND ST. OLAF COLLEGE
By Dennis Moore

The following is a very abridged version of an article written by a friend of Laurie Shawhan's. (For anyone wishing to read the entire article, there will be a few copies at the next meeting.)

While most settlers chose to farm the land, others decided business offered an opportunity for prosperous living. Such was the case of a young Norwegian named Harold Thorson. Thorson was born in Valdres, Norway, later immigrating to America in 1857. He settled in Manitowoc County, where he established a small country store in an area now known as Valdres. There he sold supplies and small farm implements to local farmers, resulting in a very prosperous business.

Thorson's brother, Knute, then immigrated to America and settled in the Norwegian community of Northfield, Minnesota. Knute suggested that his brother, Harold, should move to Northfield, become partners and open up a general store. Thorson decided to make the move.

Arriving in Northfield, Minnesota, Thorson and his brother opened a general merchandise store in the downtown area. Again, the business was very successful. With proceeds from the store, Thorson invested in other businesses, including a bank. Harold also became closely associated with establishing a Lutheran church community at Northfield.

In 1869, Thorson, with his pastor, gathered together a group of Norwegian immigrants who had settled in and around Northfield and organized the First Evangelical Norwegian Lutheran Church of Northfield. In 1874, Harold Thorson, Pastor Muus, and other members of the Lutheran congregation worked together to found and serve St. Olaf College which became a prominent Norwegian Lutheran College in Northfield, Minnesota.

St. Olaf became Thorson's first love. He contributed large sums of money to make sure the college remained in operation, serving as the President of Trustees for many years. At his death, Harold Thorson left a sizable estate that included \$1 million to St. Olaf, used to build a new dormitory for men.

As Mr. Moore wondered, "What might have happened if Thorson had continued his business in the Valdres area and worked hand in hand with prominent Valdres businessmen and pastors of Valdres? Perhaps St. Olaf College would have been built in downtown Valdres instead of Northfield. . What if?"

"Cows, Colleges and Contentment"

This is Northfield's motto. The city has a rich history with many buildings preserved from the 1800s.

Northfield is also known as the city where Jesse James gang made a foiled bank robbery attempt. First man down was a Swede, Nicholas Gustofson, who didn't understand English - and didn't duck?

NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA



Then...



Now...

Northfield College, renamed Carleton College in 1871, enrolls 1,900 students presently.

Lutheran pastor, B.J. Muus, Harold Thorson and 3 other members of their church formed St. Olaf College in 1886. Its purpose being to educate Norwegian immigrants for life in America. The enrollment is now about 3,000 students.

Tired of the long nights and short daylight hours? Things are about to change.

There's an "Equinox" coming!
(How's your latin?)

The name equinox comes from Latin words which mean "equal night"—aequus (equal) and nox (night).

Medieval Latin equinoxium "equality of night (and day),"

At equinox, the sun is directly over the Earth's equator. The vernal equinox occurs about March 22 and the autumnal equinox about September 21. Finally, for awhile anyway, things are equal! Kind of.

And SPRING is scheduled March 1st!



Astronomically (Skytalk) speaking, the equinox (March 19 or 20th every year) marks spring's beginning in the Northern Hemisphere. The equinox happens at the same moment worldwide, even if our clock times reflect a different time zone.

Meteorologically (Calendartalk) speaking, in the Northern Hemisphere, the official spring season always begins on March 1 and continues through May 31.

March Equinox - Equal Day and Night, Nearly..almost.

There are two equinoxes every year – in March and September – when the Sun shines directly on the equator and the length of night and day are nearly equal.

March Equinox in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, USA is on
Monday, March 20, 2017 at 5:29 am CDT



Would you believe, even the worms know it! Worms begin to emerge from the earth. The March Moon is called "The Full Worm Moon" for this reason. Coincidentally, robins arrive!



The Lady's Page

Jere Solberg

This is a good recipe and makes
about 1 - 1/2 doz muffins

CRANBERRY ORANGE WALNUT MUFFINS

2 cups flour

1/3 cup sugar

1/3 cup brown sugar

2 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp soda

1 tsp salt

1/2 tsp cinnamon

1/2 cup orange juice

1/2 cup orange marmalade

1/4 cup buttermilk

1/4 cup oil

1 egg

1 cup coarsely chopped cranberries

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 375°

In large bowl combine orange juice, marmalade,
buttermilk, oil and egg. Mix with dry ingredients.
Fold in cranberries and walnuts. Fill muffin cups 2/3
full and bake 18-22 minutes till golden brown.

Serve warm with orange butter.

Orange butter: mix 1/2 cup softened butter with 2
tbs orange marmalade.

March 17 - St Patrick's Day!
and Irish eyes are smilin'

First encounters were
not so friendly, 1200
years ago, when the
Vikings arrived in
Ireland in their long
boats. Besides plundering and pillaging, the
Vikings brought trade and established some of
the more important towns and cities in Ireland.
Both countries are now among the richest and
most modern societies and enjoy a cultural
exchange between their countries.
Slainte! (SLAHN-chuh)



Two Irishmen, Pat and Murphy, saw a sign
saying "Tree fellers" wanted.
Murphy said to Pat, 'If only Conor had
been with us we'd have got that job.'

Beware when seeking medical advice!
We aren't sure where Dr. Olsen got his
medical degree- could it be Norway?

Morbid - a higher offer
Outpatient - a person who has fainted
Node - Was aware of
Tumor - an extra pair
Urine - opposite of you're out
Fester - quicker
Barium - what you do when CPR fails

Ash Wednesday - March 1

"Shrove Tuesday" occurs on
the Tuesday before Ash
Wednesday, "shrove"
meaning to confess. This
day is also known as "Fat
Tuesday". Pancakes and
pastries made with sugar, fat
and eggs are traditionally
eaten on this day before the fasting and reli-
gious obligations associated with Lent begin.



From British classified ads section

WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE

Worn once by mistake
Call Stephanie

FREE PUPPIES

Mother is Kennel Club registered German Shepherd
Father is Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a
single bound

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica
45 volumes Excellent condition, best offer
No longer needed, got married, wife knows everything

Salmon go upstream.. Some, only at night?..Why?

Salmon's reluctance to swim far may be due to anxiety or fear. After being born in a freshwater river, salmon swim out into the vast ocean to grow big and strong. Many salmon swim far to get where they are going, but it's not always the case. Scientists at Umeå University in Sweden now think that anxiety or fear may be the reason why some salmon don't want to swim as far as their friends. "By treating salmon with anti-anxiety drugs, we could see that happy salmon wandered further and faster than untreated salmon," said Gustav Hellström, one of the researchers behind the study, in a press release from Umeå University.



It is the salmon's nature to be anxious. It has many enemies who want to eat it, and thus it relies on hiding in the river to avoid predators. So says Torbjørn Forseth, senior scientist at the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, NINA. "One can certainly describe salmon as an anxious animal. We know for example, that the biggest salmon rarely swims up in smaller waterways, probably because it has fewer hideouts there," says Forseth. Torbjørn Forseth at NINA says that smolt mostly swim at night, partly because darkness provides protection against predators. He believes that it thus seems logical that a fish with lowered anxiety takes greater chances than a fish with a normal level of anxiety.

Vennskap Is A Winner

(There's a Vennskap in Minnesota?!)

Tubfrim Winner Announced

Friday, Jan. 13, 2017, was a lucky day for Vennskap 1-554.. in Canby, MN. Drawn from over 1000 other cards, the lodge was the winner of the Tubfrim drawing to give away an airline ticket to Norway,

Someone asked " What do they do with those stamps ?"

TUBFRIM is based in Nesbyen, Hallingdal, Norway. The organization was founded by Nesbyen's postmaster in 1928. His goal was to collect stamps and sell them to collectors with the proceeds being used to wipe out tuberculosis amongst Norwegian children.



Since tuberculosis is no longer the threat to health that it once was, the proceeds from the resale of stamps now helps to improve the quality of life for children and youth with disabilities and special needs.

With each card representing one pound of collected stamps, Sons of Norway sent at least 1,084 pounds of stamps to Tubfrim in 2016. Vennskap contributed 21 pounds to that total. This past year, 70 lodges participated in the program, clipping 1,626,000 stamps.

The Latest Irish Joke

Dr O'Mahony tells his patient: "I have bad news and worse news, John."

"Oh dear," John replies. "What's the bad news?" asks the patient.

The doctor replies: "You only have 24 hours to live."

"That's terrible," says the patient. "How can the news possibly be worse?"

Dr O'Mahony replies: "I've been trying to contact you since yesterday."

