



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Budstikken

Wergeland Lodge #5/028 P.O. Box 3591, La Crosse, WI 54602-3591



Facebook: [Sons of Norway La Crosse Wergeland Lodge](#)

December 2023

Volume 58, Issue 11

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Wergeland Kalender

- ♦ Dec 7—5:00 Social Hour; 6:00 Dinner
Holiday Banquet at Cedar Creek
- ♦ Dec 12—no Board Meeting
- ♦ Dec 18 —Deadline for Budstikken articles
- ♦ Dec 28—Budstikken mailed to members
- ♦ January 4— 6:00 Wergeland Lodge Meeting, Radisson Center, located on the corner of 2nd & Jay St

Fra Presidenten



DECEMBER!

The early days of December, after Thanksgiving celebrations, remind me to start preparing for the wonderful season leading up to Christmas. Each of us has our special memories of the Advent, and how we prepare. The Norwegian traditions with the cooking and baking, decorating and the joys of being with family and friends is what we remember. I'm looking forward to our Heritage Dinner, so we can be together and set our thoughts on all of these things.

Let the blessings of Christmas be yours, and with that message, may there be Peace on Earth and Good Will between all men.

—Ramona J.

A message from the Nominating Committee—WE NEED YOUR HELP!

For two months, we have been calling, writing, asking for members to serve certain positions to keep the lodge going. We need to fill positions of **Vice-President** and **Treasure**. The bottom line is this, we don't know you well enough to say, "you would make a good treasurer."

If you can keep your personal finances in order, you could be our **Treasurer**! We have an assistant treasurer, that helps count the funds after each meeting.

The **Vice President** would fill in if the President is gone. Also, helps with new member recruitment and retention. Also helps the lodge keep programs interesting.

I keep telling myself, "it shouldn't be this difficult," but so far it has been. Help us out by contacting Ramona Johnson, Karen Broadhead and Heather Jacobson. We serve on the Nominating Committee



PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER



December 1 is our December Heritage Dinner at Cedar Creek in Onalaska! You should already have tickets. Social Hour begins at 5:00 and the Dinner will be at 6:00 followed by the program.



December Birthdays

- 4 Paul Williams
- 5 Barbara Friell
- 5 Rita A Johnson
- 5 Heather M Larson
- 5 Tia Louise Ranis
- 6 Bonnie Jean Koglin
- 6 Isaac Stutesman
- 12 Wayne M Olson
- 13 Kristin Peri Krug
- 14 Hudson Loper Schmitt
- 15 Rebecca Johnson
- 19 Karen M Broadhead
- 20 Lloyd O Hoff
- 21 David J Lokstad
- 21 McKenzie Marsh
- 21 Penelope Marsh
- 22 Adrian C Johnson
- 23 Vilda C Olsen
- 24 Charles L Amundson
- 27 Logan J Y Curtis



Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

Takk for at du ringte bjeller! (Thank you for ringing bells!)

Tuesday, November 28, Festival Foods Onalaska

- 2:00-4:00 David Hendrickson
- 4:00-6:00 Cyndi Bissen & Debra Gerke
- 6:00-8:00 Shirley Schoenfeld & Carla Burkhardt

Monday, December 4, Walgreens on Mormon Coulee

- 12:00-2:00 Carol & Joe Stekel
- 2:00-4:00 Char & Jerry Smith
- 4:00-6:00 Karen Broadhead & Bev Ranis

Program for January

Officer Installation & Chris Hardie Storytelling

Sekretær Notater...

November 2 Wergeland Lodge Meeting, Radisson Center, La Crosse, WI

Ramona brings meeting to order at 6:41 pm.

The pledge was said; US National Anthem, Norway's National Anthem ("Fedrelandssang") and "O Canada" were sung.

Secretary's report was printed in the Budstikken and approved as printed. Treasurer's report was read and approved as read. Details below.

Raffle - \$21.00 Viv Sacia won both!

Ramona read a note from Lilly regarding scholarship to Spring Grove.

Christmas dinner at Cedar Creek menu: pork chop with sauce, roasted potatoes, green beans and dessert. \$25.00. See Adrian to get tickets.

Carla - Bell ringing for Salvation Army - Sign up!

November birthdays - Happy Birthday was sung.

Marilyn Rudser asked if there is anyone going to Union Grove or Chippewa Falls to deliver Christmas cards to the Vets there. Two bags full were taken, wonderful!

Dave Glomstad - May peace and harmony reign in our lodge. Explained to group that being president is not all that complicated. Encouraged anyone interested to talk to Ramona.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00

Members present - 42

Program - Sharen Storhoff gave presentation on artist Herbjørn Gausta.

—Secretary, Kathy Anderson

Treasurer's Report:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Oct 31, 2023 checking balance | \$3969.73 |
| (which includes \$159.91 for Dancers) | |
| Oct 31, 2023 scholarship balance | \$1101.00 |
| Oct 31, 2023 savings balance | \$12,844.66 |
| Oct 31, 2023 Wergeland has | \$17,915.39 |



We still have about a dozen 2024 calendars available for \$14.00 each. Call or email Adrian and he will figure out a way to get it to you. They will be available also at the December Heritage dinner.

Til minner om...

...til **Maureen (Mimi) Tostrud**, wife of David Tostrud, passed away November 15, 2023. She had a long career as a nurse, including years at St. Francis/Mayo in La Crosse. Our thoughts are with David and family.



Gratulerer...

...til Wergeland member **Alex Aakre** was ordained at Holden Lutheran near Kenyon, MN, on Sat. Nov. 11th. He will be Pastor at Eidsvold and Svea Lutheran churches near Red Wing, MN. **Lee Grippen** was a guest at the event.



Tusen Takk...

...til **Ramona and Adrian** for arranging such a great trip to Decorah. Pictures from the trip will be in the next Budstikken.

Program for December: Our Heritage Dinner at Cedar Creek

We will gather at Cedar Creek, 2600 Cedar Creek Ln, Onalaska (advanced tickets required, deadline was Nov 30) on December 7 for our annual Heritage Dinner. Social Hour at 5:00 pm and Dinner at 6:00 pm. Special features will include our **Wergeland Dancers**, **LaVonne Weir** (Zone 2 Director), and our History/Heritage by **Adrian Johnson**.

From the November Program:

Sharen Storhoff from Harmony, MN, shared the story and contributions of Norwegian artist Herbjørn Gausta.

Gausta is known for altar paintings in area churches, including his home church of Greenfield Lutheran in Harmony. There are over 400 paintings in the area.



See p. 5 for information and pictures from our day in Minneapolis!!



1st church in Greenfield Settlement built 1866 withdrew from Norwegian Synod in 1886 ..then joined the United Lutheran 1916



"The Resurrection"

Greenfield minutes from 1881: Pastor Larson thought they should have an altar painting for the church. 1883 minutes: they were to contact Herbjørn Gausta. He was at the congregational meeting on Aug 24, 1884 and agreed to paint Christ's Resurrection for \$100.00

A true bargain!



Tinn Telemark 1854 - 1924



His family immigrated To America in 1867

settled on a farm near Greenfield Prairie (later named Harmony) in southeast Minnesota

Buried in Greenfield Lutheran Cemetery in Harmony Minnesota 1924

Thank you for your attention

Questions?





Dis og Dat



Carlie Burkhardt, daughter of **Carla Burkhardt**, was married to Easton Gaber on Nov 3 in Stoughton, WI. They live in Sun Prairie and both are employed by Exact Sciences in Madison.



Lee Grippen shared the poster at the right announcing the Dec 10 (2:00 pm) concert of the Luren Singers, Trinity Lutheran Church in Spring Grove, MN.



Can you guess the carol?

*Bjelleklang, bjelleklang
Over skog og hei
Hør på bjellens muntre klang
Når Blakken drar i vei-hei*

*Følg oss ut, følg oss ut
Over mo og myr
Der hvor veien slynger seg
I skogens eventyr*

*Det klinger over veien
En munter melodi
Som fuglene i heien
Så lystig stemmer i*

*Bjelleklang, bjelleklang
Over skog og hei
Hør på bjellens muntre klang
Når Blakken drar i vei*

Looking Back

Fem år siden (5 years ago) 2018

Folk dancing is story-telling with music. Our Wergeland dancers will tell you a story of a Norwegian immigrant named Ole, who was part of the major wave of Scandinavian immigrants in the 1920's. With story, song, and dance, they will tell of the hard work and the many adaptations our ancestors made in a new land. This original program honors the traditions of our ancestors with surprises, empathy, and pride in our heritage.

Frieda Nowland recently had the pleasure of hearing her grandfather's poem sung by a Norwegian folk singer who was visiting here. Inger Lien loves Frieda's grandfather's old Telemark dialect and has set many to music.

Ti år siden (10 years ago) 2013

Next year we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Norwegian Constitution and the 100th anniversary of our District 5 Sons of Norway.

A display of rosemaling pieces painted by Alice McHugh is on display at the Trempealeau Public Library now through

December 1st .

Norskedalen's 29th Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas – "Scents of the Season" will be held Saturday, December 7th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, December 8th from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center. 3 miles north of Coon Valley, WI.

Femten år siden (15 years ago) 2008

Barb and Rich Anderson enjoyed hosting the baptism for their new granddaughter, Nora, daughter of Jason and Margo Weindorfer on the last Sunday in August at Lewis Valley Lutheran Church.

Rachel Grippen, daughter of Lee and Gayle Grippen of Caledonia will have the leading role in the Strauss opera "DeFladermous" at Luther College. Rachel was a Wergeland dancer for 11 years.

Liz Malzacher traveled to New York with sisters and brother-in-law to visit another sister and her husband for a week. She reports "the color of the trees out east was awesome."

Sons of Norway Mission Statement

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.

Pictures from our great day in Minneapolis

Our Wergeland Lodge field trip to Minneapolis on Wednesday, Oct 18, was a fun and educational day. We first visited the American Swedish Institute Museum and Cultural Center, where we toured the historic mansion and enjoyed lunch. Below right, photos show a view of the main parlor, and **Marian Strong** posing by one of many beautiful carved structures in the mansion.



Our own **Ramona Johnson** attended the Swedish Hospital School of Nursing. She wore this type of uniform as a student nurse. The wood carving depicts the School of Nursing Capping Program.

We then traveled to nearby Norway House and were greeted by **Joseph Grødahl**, who gave a tour of the newly renovated building. Norway House has a Kaffebær café, mini-Ingebreetsen's market, and meeting spaces for various groups. Below, **Shirley** (with Joseph) is pointing to her name on the list of Norway House donors and **Lee** poses with Joseph.



Across the parking lot sits the beautiful Mindkirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church. A service in Norwegian is held each week.



BARNEBIRKIE: Cookies and Volunteering

Carla Burkhardt will be volunteering at the Barnebirkie in Hayward, WI, February 22. **If you would like to send cookies along, please get them to Carla at the Feb 1, 2024, meeting.**

If YOU also would like to volunteer on the day of the Barnebirkie, numerous spots are open but you must register. Go to the American Birkebeiner volunteer page (<https://www.birkie.com/volunteer/> - "Birkie Week Events") and use the password: **finishbarne2024**. Volunteers are needed at the Celebration Tent to set up signage and put out our cookie donations for the little ones.

We will be working next to another Birkebeiner partner, Swiss Miss, who distributes hot chocolate to complement our cookies.



Photo credit: Naoko Giblin

Vesterheim Norwegian Christmas

Kick off the holiday season with a Norwegian Christmas celebration at Vesterheim, the National Norwegian-American Museum and Folk Art School, on Saturday, December 2, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Admission to the museum's Main Building is free for youth under age 18 and activities throughout Heritage Park are free. Live music by local musicians will be a feature of Vesterheim Norwegian Christmas, including the Decorah High School Madrigal Singers.

Stop by to see the goats from the Lost Pine Farm in Decorah, Iowa, thanks to Mike and Erin Ryan, at Vesterheim Norwegian Christmas.

Enjoy juletreffest (Norwegian Christmas tree party of singing around a decorated tree) with a visit from the julenisse at 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the new Commons building at Vesterheim Norwegian Christmas.

More information at Vesterheim.org.



District 5 Stamp Project

Mary Cary shares the following recent information about saving used postage stamps from the Sons of Norway District 5 coordinator of the stamp project, Mary Bennett of Sun Prairie.

Sons of Norway and Wergeland Lodge continue to accept used stamps, even though the Tubfrim program in Norway has ended. Used stamps are resold as collectors' items to stamp companies or even directly to collectors themselves. The proceeds in our district aid recovering veterans or people who are low-income.

Locally, Marilyn Rudser coordinates this effort for Wergeland Lodge. Her contact information is 1006 W. Elm St, West Salem, WI 54669, 608-612-0219.

Each charity, "Stamps for the Wounded" and the mission staffed by the nuns of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, sort the stamps according to their value, and resell them as fundraisers for their organizations. Stamps for the Wounded, headquartered in Falls Church, VA, is staffed by disabled veterans who either sort the stamps or collect them as part of their rehabilitation. Sisters of the Holy Cross are from Notre Dame, IN.

Some tips:

- * Cut a one-quarter-inch to one-half-inch margin around the stamp. Important: Keep the perforations intact
- * Don't donate stamps with very dark postmarks. Collectors won't buy these.

Mary Bennett of Sun Prairie, WI, says that she is happy that the stamps are being reused, because they are of value and can be used to aid worthy causes.

Drugan's Sundays! Every Sunday until Easter:

SUNDAY

STARTING 10/29:

| BREAKFAST BUFFET 10 AM-1 PM | FULL MENU 11 AM-7 PM | LUTEFISK DINNER 11 AM-2 PM |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | |

WWW.DRUGANS.COM
608-526-4144

\$25
W/CHICKEN,
MEATBALLS,
LEFSE &
MORE!

A little in English...

How long does it take to learn Norwegian?

Some people need more time to learn Norwegian than others. A refugee, Paul, was quick and learned the language in a year. He tells us how.

"I decided to learn the language right away."

Paul speaks eagerly and quickly. He knows other languages than Norwegian and his mother tongue, he says.

For many, it is difficult to learn a new language quickly enough. At the same time, it is necessary to join society and working life. People are excluded because of language.

Paul came here [to Norway] as a refugee – after fleeing an African country. Today he speaks and writes Norwegian fluently.

In one year, he learned Norwegian at level B1-B2, he says. After 1.5 years, Paul had learned Norwegian at a more advanced level.

"I am a very curious person," he says. He has spent a lot of time at the library where he lives. He likes to read books by the author Knut Hamsun.

"Immigrants learn Norwegian at different paces. Some need more time than others," Espen Brynsrud explains to Klar Tale. He works in the Norwegian Competence Directorate. They are responsible for the Norwegian test that immigrants take.

"Most people have a goal they want to reach," he says. "Perhaps they will become Norwegian citizens. Others want a specific job, or an education."

Municipalities are among the entities that teach immigrants and refugees Norwegian. Paul says he received all the training he was entitled to as a refugee. In addition, he studied Norwegian at university. At home, he only speaks Norwegian. He has often opted out of his mother tongue after he came to Norway.

Paul is now satisfied with the Norwegian he has learned. It has secured him a permanent job. Now he envisions a long and happy life in Norway.

"I feel at home here. That's why I love this country," he says.

Litt på Norsk...

Hvor lang tid tar det å lære norsk?

Noen trenger mer tid på å lære norsk enn andre. Flyktningen Paul var rask og lærte språket på ett år. Han forteller oss hvordan.

– Jeg bestemte meg for å lære språket med én gang.

Paul snakker ivrig og raskt. Han kan flere språk enn norsk og morsmålet, forteller han.

For mange er det vanskelig å lære et nytt språk raskt nok. Samtidig er det nødvendig for å bli med i samfunnet og arbeidslivet. Folk blir stående utenfor på grunn av språk.

Paul kom hit som flyktning – på flukt fra et afrikansk land. I dag snakker og skriver han norsk flytende.

På ett år lærte han norsk på nivå B1-B2, sier han (Nivå B1: Personen forstår mye av klar tekst og tale. Han klarer seg i de fleste situasjoner. Nivå B2: Personen forstår det meste av akademiske tekster. Han deltar i samtaler med et flytende språk.). Etter 1,5 år hadde han lært norsk på et mer avansert nivå.

– Jeg er en veldig nysgjerrig person, sier mannen. Han har brukt mye tid på biblioteket der han bor. Han liker godt å lese bøker av forfatteren Knut Hamsun.

– Innvandrere lærer norsk i ulikt tempo. Noen trenger mer tid enn andre, forklarer Espen Brynsrud til Klar Tale. Han jobber i direktoratet Kompetanse Norge. De har ansvar for norskprøven som innvandrere tar.

De fleste har et mål de vil nå, sier han. Kanskje vil de bli norsk statsborger. Andre ønsker seg en bestemt jobb, eller en utdanning.

Kommunene er blant dem som lærer innvandrere og flyktninger norsk. Paul sier han tok imot all den opplæringen han hadde krav på som flyktning. I tillegg studerte han norsk ved et universitet. Hjemme snakker han bare norsk. Han har ofte valgt bort morsmålet etter at han kom til Norge.

Paul er nå fornøyd med norsken han har lært. Det har sikret ham en fast jobb. Nå ser han for seg et langt og godt liv i Norge.

– Jeg føler meg hjemme her. Derfor elsker jeg dette landet, sier han.



Sons of Norway
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DECEMBER 2023



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Norskedalen Activities

Throne Visitors Center

Hours From Nov - Apr:

Monday-Saturday from 9am--4pm
Sunday from 11am--4pm



Admission rates for all programs with the exception of Heritage classes is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children, \$15.00 for families, and free for members of "Friends of Norskedalen."

All visitors, including Norskedalen organization members, should check in at the Throne Visitors' Center for your admissions, wristband, maps and information.

Norskedalen Members may use the Norskedalen grounds 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset. Member parking pass must be clearly displayed in front windshield while using Norskedalen grounds.

Non-members may only use Norskedalen grounds during regular business hours and must check-in with office staff to pay admissions and receive a wristband.

Norskedalen phone: 608-452-3424

Web site: www.norskedalen.org

E-mail Address: info@norskedalen.org