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Karen Trzebiatowski

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Trustee (2019-2021)
Milo Harpsted

Trustee (2018-2020)
Mark Hansen, Jr.

Vennligfolk Lodge
meets the second
Sunday evening, 5:00 pm
September thru May
at St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
600 Wilshire Blvd Stevens
Point, WI



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

Volume 27 Issue 5

SEPTEMBER OG OKTOBER 2020

Fra presidenten:



Along with most everything in the summer of 2020, **Vennligfolk's** Midtsommer Gathering was quite different from past years. Carl and

Lynn Rasmussen hosted an evening Pie & Ice Cream Social in their spacious, beautiful backyard on August 13th. The weather was perfect, safety precautions were in place, and the homemade pies were absolutely delicious. About twenty **Vennligfolk Lodge** members enjoyed this gathering. I'm not the only one who felt that Midtsommer was a big summer highlight. Here are a few comments from two of the attendees:

"A special thank you to all who contributed to a beautiful evening. A special thank you to Carl and Lynn for the work they did to provide a safe backyard setting for us all. It was so good to see and have conversation with members of our lodge again. I have truly missed this and hope we can continue gathering in a safe way at monthly meetings."

"It was a great evening. So good to see so many again, and we all were very careful. Pie and ice cream were excellent! Thanks to all the bakers."

(Our bakers were Kathy Clucas, Karen Trzebiatowski, Rita Johnson, Charlotte Hensler, Lois Hagen, & Susan Morton).

Have you been doing any Norwegian activities lately? Bea Berg has spent the summer doing family genealogy. Karen Trzebiatowski was busy making a Hardanger mask. She even won a prize at our Midtsommer Gathering for her

handcrafted Hardanger mask (see page 4). Her husband, Jerry, poured an iron mold made from one of his carved wood figures. As shown below, I had fun with two of my grandchildren by letting them dress up in bunads!

Our officers have discussed at length, the pros and cons of starting up our monthly lodge meetings again. Midtsommer made many of us realize how much we miss being together with our lodge friends. But . . . we also realize that everyone's health safety has to be our top priority right now. Many members did not feel safe in attending our *outside* gathering last month. We are also under a state mandate to wear masks through the month of September. Due to health concerns, our presenters for our September meeting have canceled their presentation. Therefore, we have made the difficult decision to **not** hold our September lodge meeting.

We are very hopeful that we can have our October 11th lodge meeting. And no one wants to start up our lodge meetings more than this lodge president! So until we meet again, stay safe. See you in October.



*Vennlig hilsen,
Susan Morton*

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

September

- Birdie Granum- 5
- Mary Hansen 7
- Rich Somers - 14
- Nick Verstein - 22
- Nancy Schroeder- 25
- Francis Polson - 25
- Gordon Miller- 27
- Milo Harpstead – 28

September						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Oktober

- Bea Berg- 7
- VENNLIGFOLK - 9
- LEIF ERIKSON DAY – 9
- Sean Norgorski - 11
- Barbara Aavang - 16
- Karen Clifford – 28

October						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???



September 13, 2020 (Sunday) **“Our 2019 Norwegian Experience”** Cindy & [unclear] describe their “dream-come-true” 4-week trip to Norway co- with 26 cousins; fun surprises; stops at ancestral homes;



“Our 2019 Norwegian Experience” Cindy & [unclear] describe their “dream-come-true” 4-week trip to Norway co- with 26 cousins; fun surprises; stops at ancestral homes;

October 11, 2020 (Sunday) 5PM **Sigrid Green – Norwegian Spy and Patriot**



Arno Morton shares the little-known story of an eighteen-year-old Norwegian-English woman, Sigrid Green, who was both a secret agent for the British and a code breaker at Blechley Park in England during WWII. Her efforts helped lead to the destruction of the Hydro Electric plant in the Telemark area where Germans were producing “heavy water.” It is a fascinating account of how ordinary people in the right place at the right time helped to do extraordinary feats for Norway during the war years.



November 8, 2020 (Sunday) 5PM **“Scandinavian Happiness”**

Year after year the Danes, Finns, Swedes, Norwegians, and Icelanders, rank among the happiest folks in the world. Dr. Richard Ruppel, UWSP Emeritus Professor of World Languages and Literature will explore what these cultures have or do that produces this “happiness” and what we might learn from them.

December 13, 2020 (Sunday) Julefest 5PM at St Pauls UMC

What is Tubfrim?



Tubfrim is an organization in Norway supported by Sons of Norway that resells cancelled stamps and donates the proceeds to help children with disabilities.



In 1928 Ditlef Frantzen, postmaster of the small Norwegian town of Nesbyen, located about 73 miles northwest of Oslo, got the idea to collect and market canceled stamps as a way of raising funds for the Tuberculosis Association in Norway. Within a few years, his idea caught on and many communities in Norway and beyond were collecting and sending bags of canceled stamps to Nesbyen.

When Frantzen left Nesbyen in 1943, he transferred his stamp collecting institution to the Norwegian Health Service. Since tuberculosis is no longer the threat to health that it once was, today disabled and needy children receive the proceeds from the resale of the stamps. Last year Tubfrim made a profit of 520,000 Kroner (that’s almost \$80,000).



How can I help?

To help Tubfrim do its crucial work, simply clip canceled stamps from envelopes, leaving at least a quarter of an inch around the edge. Bring your stamps to the next regular Vennligfolk meeting.

There are many ways in which we are asked to assist our fellow human beings who are in need. Participation in the Tubfrim program is one of the simpler yet successful ways to do just that. Sons of Norway is proud to support Tubfrim in their work to support children in need.



It's Here: Viking for Kids!

Sons of Norway's new electronic publication, **Viking for Kids** has arrived! Featuring a variety of content such as Scandinavian-inspired articles, puzzles, quizzes, coloring pages and other activities, the new Viking for Kids is produced entirely by Sons of Norway staff for readers ages 8 to 14. It will be published quarterly and available to heritage members for download from sofn.com. Members can locate the publication by logging into Sons of Norway and accessing the drop-down tabs under "member benefits." Viking for Kids is located under the Viking Magazine tab.



Norwegian Sweet Soup - Søtsuppe

Member Shelia Kershek from Fosselyngen Lodge 5-082 (Milwaukee) shared this recipe that is perfect for cooler fall weather. Shelia said: *This is a recipe that my Grandma Vaughn (nee Halvorsen) used to make. My Dad makes a bunch of it every Christmas and gives me a nice container of it. I love it!*

- 6 cups water
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup prunes
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon red sugar
- 1/2 cup tapioca
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon or 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon vinegar or lemon juice (we use lemon juice)



***Place all the ingredients into a kettle and boil until tapioca is clear and the raisins and prunes are cooked (about 8 minutes). The mixture will thicken and then can be thinned by adding a little water.

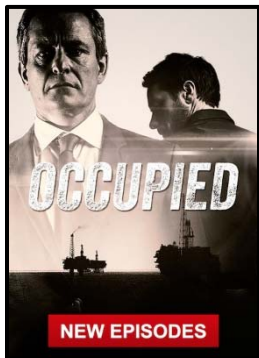
(Note: The red sugar gives the soup a rosy color, and can be omitted. You can serve this warm or cold. A drizzle of heavy cream on top is extra tasty.)

Photo: www.cheaprecipeblog.com/

>>Do you have a Norwegian or Nordic-inspired recipe to share with fellow members? Please contact membership@sofn.com.

"Occupied," A Norwegian Political Thriller

by Carl Rasmussen



Netflix subscribers should check out "**Occupied**" or, as known in Norway, "**Okkupert**." Set entirely in Norway with luscious scenery and urban Oslo settings, the story also provides a good way to hone your Norsk language skills while enjoying a well written action and political drama. The main dialogue is all Norwegian with English subtitles. The pace is quick and subtitles fly by like an Evelyn Wood speed reading session.

Episode One rolls out the show's premise with a number of attention grabbing title blocks: Middle East war has halted oil production; the world is in a fuel crisis; Norway becomes the exclusive supplier of energy to Europe; Norway's Green Party controls parliament; to help avert global climate change the Green Party halts providing Norwegian oil and gas to the European Union.

At that point, Russian agents kidnap the Norwegian Prime Minister and deliver him a message. With the European Union's blessing Russia will be taking over "management" of Norwegian oil and gas production and keep the energy flowing to the EU. A self-absorbed United States chooses not to get involved with a "European issue."

Whew! . . . and that's only the first fifteen minutes of the first program. If the plot line seems to jump right from front-page of today's news, consider that the first episodes were written in 2008 fully six years before Russia invaded Ukraine and eight years before the US first signaled a shift to lukewarm status with NATO and European allies.

Each show is roughly 50 minutes long. Released in 2016, season 1 has ten episodes; season 2 came out in 2017 and has eight episodes; and season 3 just released in January 2020 has six episodes. The show enjoys a popular following in Norway and with a budget of 90 million kroner (\$11 million US) the entire series represents the most expensive Norwegian TV production ever.

Midtsommer 2020 – A Masked Affair



Louise Lang & Jane Gjevre



Pres. Susan Morton & Arno



Don & Lori Johnson



Susan M. addresses the lodge



Pies, Pies, Pies!!



Best Mask Winners!



Most Humorous Mask
Rita Johnson
"Uff Da to 2020"



Most Artistic Mask
Don Johnson
"Flags & Hearts"



Most Norwegian Mask
Karen Trzebiatowski
"Hardanger Heart"



Lighting the sunset extender



Hosts Lynn & Carl Rasmussen



No time for Kubb!

Treasure Trove of Artifacts Revealed at Ancient Viking Mountain Pass

About 200 miles northwest of Oslo, the Jotunheim Mountains contain a stretch of land known as the Lendbreen ice patch. During the warm summer of 2011, archeologists began coming across long-buried artifacts under the melting ice.

One of the first discoveries was the oldest piece of clothing ever found in Norway: a 1,700-year-old tunic! This led to many more explorations of the site through 2019, eventually resulting in the discovery of over 1,000 artifacts, including horseshoes, clothing, walking sticks, and leather shoes, as archeologists meticulously worked through an area the size of 35 football fields.

Experts determined that this stretch of land was once used as a travel route from the Roman age, (about 300 AD) until the Middle Ages. At that point the route was slowly forgotten as other favorable routes developed. Peak use occurred during the Viking era, around 1000 AD, as it provided a key trading route between Scandinavia and the rest of Europe.



A wooden whisk dated to the 11th century. Such whisks are still in use today

Walking sticks, complete or broken, were quite common finds at Lendbreen. One even carried a runic inscription with the name of its owner – Joar! The type of runes and the radiocarbon date of the stick both point to the 11th century AD.

So far, no other ice patch in the world has yielded more archeological finds. The ice containing the remains of Lendbreen pass is mostly gone now. But just after finishing work at Lendbreen, new finds started melting out at a mountain pass further west on the same ridge!

As ice continues to melt higher in the mountains, archaeologists anticipate making still more discoveries akin to the Lendbreen ice patch. The report of these discoveries was recently published in April 2020 in the scientific journal, “**Antiquities**” and available on-line for additional reading.



Horseshoe from 11th to mid-13th century found with a part of the horse’s hoof still attached!

Vennligfolk Cultural Skills

Cultural Skills Coordinator, Karen Trzebiatowski asks “How many Cultural Skills can you name?”

The answer is fourteen:

- Norwegian Cooking
- Norwegian Literature
- Hardanger Embroidery
- Hand Knitting
- Weaving
- Norwegian Genealogy
- Rosemaling
- Stamp Collecting
- Ornamental Woodcarving
- Chip Carving
- Figure Carving
- Norwegian Language
- Music and Musicians of Norway
- Folk Dancing



Each of these activities can be pursued on your own or in a group. Cultural Skills coordinator Karen Trzebiatowski has information on them all! You can reach out to Karen at 715-824-7679 or send an email to: Karentrzeb@gmail.com.

The Sons of Norway website (sofn.com) also has information and in some cases, links to helpful YouTube videos.



Jerry T’s iron mold pour

Finished Iron Figure

Getting to Know: Rita & Tom Johnson



For my wife Rita and myself, interest in our Norwegian heritage has been a lifelong process of search and discovery that continues to bring new insight and revelation. Our Sons of Norway lodge has helped to fan the flames of that interest since we began attending meetings, going back to the early years of the lodge.

We met in the fall of 1979, after we both moved to Lacrosse, WI to attend Western Wisconsin Technical Institute. Both of us were small town people, with Rita being raised in the Thorp, WI area, and myself growing up in the Tigerton, WI area. We were married in Lacrosse in 1981, and left to follow jobs in Glenwood City, WI, Wausau, WI, and Rosholt, WI, before finally settling in Stevens Point for the last 27 years. Along the way, we have been blessed with two wonderful children, Joshua, who lives in Chippewa Falls, WI, and Mary, who lives in Glendale, WI. We were also fortunate to have these same two children provide us with four active and talented grandchildren. We have both been employed at UW-Stevens Point, with Rita working as a Pharmacy Technician, and myself working in maintenance.

Rita's heritage is predominantly Czech, Polish and Slovak on her father's side, and English, Scottish, and Norwegian from her mother's side. Her grandfather once served a term as guard for the King of Norway before he immigrated to the United States in the 1920's. Her Norwegian grandmother was from Lindevik's Ridge in the Coon Valley,

WI area. She has always been drawn to the Norwegian side of her heritage, due in part to the influence of her grandparents. When we became engaged, her grandparents were very happy that she had developed a "liking for a Viking." It should also be noted that Rita once won a second place medal in the lutefisk eating contest at the Nordic Fest in Decorah, IA.

My heritage is all Scandinavian, with my DNA test listing the central parts of Norway and Sweden as the area my ancestors came from. A few of them immigrated here before the Civil War, with one fighting with an artillery regiment from Illinois, but most of them coming over in the 1880's. Growing up, I was aware that I was Norwegian, but my Grandfather Johnson had been killed by lightning when he was 28, and several years later, my Grandmother Johnson re-married into a German family in the township of Germania, near Tigerton. It seemed that our Norwegian heritage faded into the background as I grew up, and it wasn't until I was married and started attending a reunion for my Johnson relatives that an interest in my heritage began to grow.

Both Rita and I enjoy the people, programs, and other activities that our Sons of Norway lodge provides us. Over the years, we have listened to some excellent programs on a wide variety of topics. We look forward to the time when we can meet again with our fellow lodge members.

From the Editor: I hoped you enjoyed these Getting to Know articles over the past year. We've had good participation from both new and long-term members and we hope to continue to carry this series. Lodge members can submit short introduction articles on their own or, kindly respond when asked.

Tusen Takk, Carl R. Editor



Latest from Finland

In Finland, salty licorice (*salmiakkt*) is nothing short of a national treasure. Locals literally refer to it as "black gold."

Yet tourists often wind up spitting it out. What makes the sweet so divisive? It's made with *salmiak* (ammonium chloride), which is so intensely salty, it was once used as a medicine to clear stuffy sinuses. In fact, historians believe the licorice-*salmiak* combo was first created to entice children to take their meds, and from there evolved into a local obsession.

Thanks to www.universalyums.com April 2020

Looking for a past edition or article of

Vennligblad?

Editions back to November 2017 are available at SON District 5 website:

www.sonsofnorway5.com/



Select the **Lodges tab**, scroll to "Vennligfolk,"
Select: "**MORE INFO**"

a little in English... Do you believe ghosts are real?



What about Princess Elsa? Or Santa Claus? Researchers have investigated who children believe in. And who they do not believe in.

Do children understand the difference between characters who are real and those who are not?

British researchers contacted 176 youths between the ages of two and eleven. A group of adults was also included. Everyone viewed 13 different characters.

Then participants were given a task: give the characters points according to how real you think they are!

Four groups

It turned out that most of the children divided the figures into four groups:

Real characters: Pop groups and dinosaurs.

Almost real characters: Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy.

Possibly real figures: Aliens, dragons, unicorns and ghosts.

Not real characters: Princess Elsa, Peter Pan and Sponge Bob.

The youngest children believed in almost everything

There was still a difference between the children. The very youngest believed quite a lot in all the characters. Most 10-to-11-year-olds, on the other hand, were pretty sure that Elsa, Sponge Bob and dragons were not real.

Quite a few adults believed in ghosts

The adults who had taken part in the survey responded quite differently from the children. The adults did not believe in dragons or unicorns. But when it came to ghosts and aliens, they were not so sure. Adults believed in ghosts almost as much as children. The researchers thought this was a bit surprising. They write that they do not know why this is so. And they hope other researchers will investigate it further.

Some words just don't translate easily:

flygskam: A Swedish term roughly meaning, "flight shame." The word draws from the high carbon-dioxide impact associated with jet airplane travel to climate change.



litt på norsk... Tror du spøkelses finnes på ordentlig?

Hva med prinsesse Elsa? Eller julenissen? Forskere har undersøkt hvem barn tror på. Og hvem de ikke tror på.

Skjønner barn forskjell på figurer som er virkelige og de som ikke er det?

Britiske forskerne fikk tak i 176 unger på mellom to og elleve år. En gruppe voksne var også med. Alle fikk se 13 forskjellige figurer.

Så fikk deltagerne en oppgave: Gi figurene poeng etter hvor virkelig du mener de er!

Fire grupper

Det viste seg at de fleste barna delte figurene inn i fire grupper:

Virkelige figurer: Popgruppa og dinosaurer.

Nesten virkelige figurer: Julenissen og tannfeen.

Muligens virkelige figurer: Romvesener, drager, enhjørninger og spøkelses.

Ikke virkelige figurer: prinsesse Elsa, Peter Pan og Svampebob.



De minste barna trodde på nesten alt

Det var likevel forskjell mellom barna. De aller minste trodde temmelig mye på alle figurene. De fleste 10-11-åringene var derimot temmelig sikre på at Elsa, Svampebob og drager ikke var virkelige.

Ganske mange voksne trodde på spøkelses

De voksne som hadde vært med i undersøkelsen, svarte ganske forskjellig fra barna. De voksne trodde verken på drager eller enhjørninger. Men når det gjaldt spøkelses og romvesener, var de ikke like sikre. Voksne trodde nesten like mye på spøkelses som barna. Det syntes forskerne var litt overraskende. De skriver at de ikke vet hvorfor det er slik. Og de håper andre forskere vil undersøke det nærmere.

Excerpted from: <https://ung.forskning.no/overtro/tror-du-spokelses-finnes-pa-ordentlig/1701082>

Americans call pastries "**Danishes**" because Danish immigrants brought them to the US in the late 19th century. But Danes didn't invent them. Austrian bakers actually introduced pastries to Denmark in 1850, which is why Danes typically call them **wienerbrød** ("bread from Vienna"). But Austria didn't invent pastries, either. They were brought there by the French, who invented them in 1645. Got that?





Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627
 Carl Rasmussen, Editor
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SAVE THE DATE!
 Sunday, Sept 13 Meeting
Cancelled
 Sunday, Oct 11
**Sigrid Green – Norwegian
 WWII Spy and Patriot**
 by Arno Morton



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.

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 Carl Rasmussen at 3136 Dans Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by e-mail addressed to: Vennligblad@gmail.com
Mange Tusen Takk, Carl Rasmussen, Editor



Support Tubfrim. As you receive mail with postage stamps, cut the postage off leaving a ¼ inch boarder of paper. Bring your stamps to the next regular Vennligfolk meeting.



Like Vennligfolk on Facebook! 

Search for **@sofnvennligfolk**; or, **SOFN #5-627 Vennligfolk Lodge** on Facebook. Click "Like" and "Follow". If you need help Lodge members Kathy Clucas and Patricia Serio are willing to help you get going

Meeting Room Sound System Update

Work is underway on installing the new sound system in Vennligfolk's meeting room, Fletcher Hall. Masonry block was removed from the wall in mid-August to receive the amplifier and sound mixer. All the wire runs for the speakers and electrical power have been traced and the electrical materials purchased. The equipment cabinet is being constructed by an UMC church member in his shop. The project is targeted to be complete by Sept. 13 but may take longer now that our September meeting has been cancelled.

