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Milo Harpsted

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 28 Issue 5

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

SEPTEMBER OG OKTOBER 2021

## Fra presidenten:



Although I've been retired from teaching for several years now, I still get that "back to school" feeling this time of year. There is one difference though - Now it's a "back to lodge meetings" kind of feeling. I'm excited and eager to start our regular monthly **Vennligfolk Lodge** meetings on the second Sunday night of each month!

With the startup of our lodge meetings, you all will have opportunities to serve in the following areas: 1) Providing refreshments 2) Helping to set up and assist with clean-up 3) Setting up a small display table with some of your Scandinavian items. *All* of these ways of serving are a big part of the reason why we have such wonderful lodge meetings.

A huge "tusen takk" goes to all the members who helped make our three summer gatherings such a success! Carl & Lynn Rasmussen hosted our June gathering in their beautiful back yard. Ron & Charlotte Hensler did all the set-up for our July pie social in Collin's Park. August found us in Ray & Jen Haas's lovely backyard for our ice cream social. Also, many members provided the delicious meringues, pies, and bars for these gatherings. These summer gatherings were well attended and enjoyed.

Our first "Road Trip" will be a day trip to Door County this fall. Of course, we want nice weather for this outing, so we are planning this trip for one of the following dates: September 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, or October 1<sup>st</sup>. The weather will determine which day we travel. The plan is to leave at 7:30 AM and return around 9:30 PM. Some of the

planned stops will be Jorn's Sugar Bush, lunch at Al Johnson's, shopping at the Tannenbaum Christmas store and Seaquist's, and a stop at beautiful Cave Point. Yes, we can do all of this in one day! At our September 12<sup>th</sup> lodge meeting we will share more information on our Door County Road Trip.

On a personal note . . . By far, the highlight of my summer was having my whole family together in July. Our son and his family flew from California to be with us for ten days. Our daughter and her family were in the process of moving from Minneapolis to Plover at the same time. Our house was bulging at the seams with having nine extra people staying with us! It was a crazy-busy time, and I loved every minute of it. While we were together, we had some pictures taken in our backyard. The following is a picture of Arno & me with all five of our grandchildren. We aren't wearing Norwegian outfits, but we are all wearing fun Hawaiian outfits!

*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  
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???

**Hurra, Hurra, Hurra Regular monthly meetings begin again!!!**



Our Lodge begins holding regular monthly meetings and programs again starting Sunday September 12 at 5 p.m. at St. Pauls United Methodist Church, Stevens Point. Consider presenting a program yourself. Discuss your idea with Program Director Char Hensler. Bring a friend!

**September 12, 2021 (Sunday) 5PM "Scandinavian Travels."** Butch Pomeroy has traveled extensively in Norway and Scandinavia and will share his insights and adventures in pictures. Butch is the brother of Lodge member Sally Prideaux. A great re-start for Vennligfolk after over a year without meetings! Make certain to attend and give our new sound system a listen!



**October 10, 2021 (Sunday) 5PM "Scandinavian Happiness"**

Yes, the Scandinavians are still happy and Dr. Richard Ruppel will finally be able to tell you why! 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 all might learn from them.

**November 14, 2021 (Sunday) 5PM -- "Wisconsin's WWII Internment Camps"**

Some 22,000 German POWs were held in prison camps in Wisconsin during WWII. The main POW facility was Camp McCoy, however, there were another 36 branch camps spread out across the state. Presenter Jim Walker will describe the camps and stories of interactions with Wisconsin residents.

**December 5, 2021 (Sunday) – Julefest 2021**

Planning has begun; Plan to join in the fun!

Set-up will be December 4!



**District 5**

### District 5 Sons of Norway 2022 Convention

**Idun Lodge 5-074, Madison** will host the regional convention for the 45 Lodges of District 5 from six states **June 15-19, 2022**. Located at the Madison Marriot West in Middleton WI, this convention was original scheduled for June 2020 but had to be rescheduled because of Covid. Vennligfolk can have three members attend as voting delegates. Other Vennligfolk members can attend and participate in the many cultural activities and informative presentations.



**International Meeting of SONS OF NORWAY** will convene next **August 31 to September 1, 2022** in Minneapolis, MN. The convention will gather member lodges and districts

from the United States, Canada, and Norway. The event will be held at the new Omni Viking Lakes Hotel, Eagan, MN. This conference will also provide opportunities for cultural events, entertainment and presentations plus an opportunity to tour the new SON headquarters in Minneapolis. Proximity to Minneapolis gives Vennligfolk members a chance to take it all in!

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Northland Lutheran Church Norwegian Heritage Supper, N9880 Highway 49, Iola, WI **October 16, 2021** Mark your calendars! Check the church website at: [www.northlandchurchiola.com](http://www.northlandchurchiola.com)





## Summer 2021 Lodge Gatherings Continue. . .

Our second Vennligfolk summer gathering occurred at Collins Lake Park in July where attendees were treated to a variety of fresh baked pies and ice cream, great conversation, and a few friendly games of Kubb!



Pres. Susan Morton inviting all for pie!



Weather provided Vennligfolk members a great evening and sunset to socialize and enjoy some pie along the shore of Collins Lake.



Lynn Rasmussen & Lori Johson share a laugh



Milo Harpstead & Arno Morton catch up



Charolene Lieber, Patti Rous, and Mark Hansen (L-R) hone their skills with a friendly game of Kubb

**The home of Jen and Ray Haas was the August setting for our third gathering. Ice cream with all the toppings and a variety of bars were featured along with an opportunity to reconnect.**



Artist & Master Gardener Jen Haas welcomed members to her home



President Susan Morton extends invitation to our fall programs



Kathy Clucas & Jen at the serving table



Patti Rous, Jen Haas, & Elaine Anderson



Oz Hagen & Milo Harpstead



## Get Up in the Trees You Say?

by Carl Rasmussen

At our Collins Lake lodge gathering, Patti Rous sported a T-shirt with the Norwegian phrase, “ut i skogen opp i trærne.” Its literal translation is “out in the woods, up in the trees.” Not hearing this phrase before, I wondered about its meaning or if perhaps it was one of those Norwegian sayings that, “just did not quite translate?”



Internet searches did not reveal any similar Norwegian expressions that resembled it. I thought the sentiment might be tied to “friluftsliv,” the Norwegian philosophy of “living a life outdoors.” Friluftsliv, a combination of three words, “free-air-life,” also does not translate well.

Patti sought help from her daughter, Sarah and resident Norway expert, son-in-law, Anders Andreassen. Anders did not recognize the phrase “ut i skogen opp i trærne” as being commonly used either. He interpreted it as, “getting out and being playful—as in climbing trees!”

Anders says there is a similar phrase, “Ut på tur, aldri sur.” It rhymes in Norwegian but translates as “Out on a trip, never sour.” He said it is used a lot, “verbally with kids and such.” The meaning, “one is always in a good mood when going for a walk” and shows up on a number of T-shirts.



Another phrase appearing for sale on T-shirts is, “Norge er ikke skapt for å sitte på ræva,” or, “Norway is not created to sit on your butt.” Anders agreed while the concept is not strange for Norwegians, suggested it might be a bit crude and definitely “not a shirt to be worn by everyone or everywhere.” He added, “Perhaps it is more a shirt made for tourists!” He did share his sister’s friend wears one!



Patti said the topic was fun to discuss. “Everyone agreed that slogans on t-shirts are now quite popular in Norway and worn by Norwegians.” The writer was glad he asked, and now will “go for a walk outdoors!”

## Norway to Build World’s First Ship Tunnel

Construction of the world’s first ship tunnel able to service both large freight and passenger ships has been authorized by Norway. Scheduled to begin in 2022, the project involves drilling a 118-foot-wide tunnel through solid rock nearly one mile across the Stad Peninsula on Norway’s west coast about 120 miles north of Bergen.

The Stad Peninsula is a 17-mile-long finger of land jutting out where the both North and Norwegian seas converge. The confluence results in treacherous currents, strong tides, and at times extreme weather. Ships often have to wait days for the stormy seas to settle before they can embark on their slow and many time dangerous trip around the cape. Since World War II there have been 46 accidents and near-misses and 33 deaths attributed to the current passage. One of the near-misses was in 2004 when a 161-passenger cruise ship almost shipwrecked.

The tunnel will be constructed at the peninsula’s narrowest point where it connects to the mainland. The 148-foot-tall tunnel will be large enough to allow ships the size of a 64-ft wide Hurtigruten Coast Steamer or average cargo ships to slip through safely.



The project is expected to take three to four years to complete and cost \$330 million (US). Because of its location, the tunnel will take as long to reach and go through as it would to go around the peninsula on good weather days. But by taking the weather out of the equation, it will improve safety and trade links in the area say the project’s promoters and developers.

Sources; BBC, CNN & SofN News Service

## Meet Don Romundson

I lived in Park Ridge, Wisconsin through grade school when my father purchased the farm next to my grandfather's and we moved to New Hope township. My grandfather's farm and the farm next door were originally owned by two Norwegian brothers with the last name of Foss. These brothers were among the first pioneers in New Hope.

My parents' residence originally housed the first school in New Hope until the Garfield School was built some years later. The classroom and schoolteacher's quarters were in the back half of the house. When my parents purchased the farm, the house was still more-or-less "divided" in half.

My great-grandfather had purchased the other Foss farm in 1890 and the farm has been continuously farmed by our family for over 130 years since. Our Romundson name was "Americanized" presumably as a concession to American phonics during or after arrival in America. My great-great-grandfather's name was Raamund Raamundsen. He was a husman born in Seljord, Telemark who eventually moved in 1820 to a tenant farm in Eidanger

Raamund's wife's family was much involved in coastal navigation. Her father was a freight carrier who died on a trip to Moss, located much to the north and on the opposite side of the Oslofjord from Eidanger. Raamund's farm went to his eldest son, following the custom of the times. My great-grandfather was the fourth child, and as also often happened to many young men who were not the eldest - he emigrated to America. There are still some distant ancestors in the Eidanger/Skien/Porsgrunn area which about 66 miles southwest of Oslo.

My great-grandmother's father volunteered for the Civil War just eight years after arriving in Wisconsin. He joined the 10th Iowa Infantry, presumably because of the prevalence of Norwegian spoken. He served three years and fought in many battles, eventually being struck by a musket ball to the head during the siege of Missionary Hill outside Chattanooga during the campaigns to capture Atlanta. He survived but was disabled for the rest of his life.

My grandfather eventually took over the farm in New Hope and, when my father purchased the adjoining farm, the land was reunited as it was originally granted. My mother found the land grant signed by President James Buchanan (pres. 1857-1861) in the wall of the house during a remodeling!



I purchased the farm next to my parents in 1990, and when my grandparents passed, I purchased that farm too.

After college, I had moved to California to attend graduate school. My plan was to live and work a year to gain residency to be eligible for in-state tuition but nobody was hiring so I returned. I was hired as a station agent/computer operator for the Soo Line Railroad because I "had a college education and knew how to type!" I worked in depots throughout Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Chicago. I was eventually

selected to attend train dispatcher school in Minneapolis and returned to work as a train dispatcher in the south side depot in Stevens Point.

In 1984, I went to UW-Madison and obtained a law degree. I was a law clerk in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, and for two years in the Wisconsin Supreme Court for Justice Bill Bablitch, who became a personal friend until his death. The next fifteen years I worked in larger law firms in Green Bay and Madison, eventually returning to the judiciary as the resident senior staff attorney in the Wisconsin Court of Appeals in Wausau.

After graduating from law school in 1987, I travelled to Norway and while there I attempted to research my Norwegian ancestry. Because I thought my grandmother told me she sent "care packages" to Norwegian relatives near Bergen after WWII, I travelled from Oslo to Bergen. But I found no relatives in Bergen. While there, I took a boat through the Sognefjord, the longest and deepest of the fjords which culminates in one of the prettiest spots at the Flam Railway with its waterfalls and dramatic views.

I met Gerhard Naeseth when I worked in the Supreme Court, and I asked him to research my ancestry. He said that he could not find anyone with my last name who left Norway and felt that perhaps my great-grandfather was an illegal immigrant.

Later, however, Gerhard did further research and found Raamund Raamundsen, and that my great-grandfather, Gerhard discovered had come through the port of New York from Brevik. It was then that I realized my grandmother must have told me "Brevik," but I remembered it as "Bergen!" From that point, the research was more productive. Brevik merged with Porsgrunn in about 1964.

***Continued on next page***

## Meet Don Romundson *Continued from pg. 5*

I returned to Norway in 2005. I travelled by car from Helsinki, Finland to the top of Europe, three straight days of 12-hour driving, through the "hand of the glove" in Finnish Lapland far above the Arctic Circle to far Northern Norway and eventually south again to the Lofoten Islands, a beautiful and temperate area. I also visited other northern Norwegian towns including Narvik, the site of a famous battle in WWII involving the British sea blockade of Nazi-occupied Norway.

On my return to Helsinki, I travelled through the vast iron ore mines in Kiruna, Sweden that the Germans commandeered for their war machine. Because of the limitations of Swedish ports, especially in the winter when they were ice covered, much of the ore was transported by train to Narvik and put on German boats to travel down the coast to Germany. The British blockaded the seas but

eventually destroyed the port of Narvik which devastated iron ore transportation from the mines.

I intend to return to the southeast of Norway to visit the Eidanger/Skien/Porsgrunn area and the old tenant farms in the Telemark area. It would have been fun to attend the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, north of Oslo, when the Norway collected the highest number of medals overall, but I'm still looking forward to it.

My mother is some percentage Norwegian, but also Irish, English, Welsh, Scottish and French. My outside interests include kayaking, music, reading, cross-country skiing, woodworking and sporting events.

**From the Editor:** I hope you enjoy these Getting to Know articles. Over the past two years we have had great participation from both new and long-term members. We hope to continue this series. Lodge members can submit short introduction articles on their own or, kindly respond when asked.

*Tusen Takk, Carl R. Editor*

## Norwegian Flatbread



### Maynard Solomonson's Prize-Winning Flatbrød

Maynard's mother made flatbrød (flatbread) for many years and Maynard joyfully demonstrated it at several of Vennekretsen's Nordic Heritage Fests (Lodge 1-559, in Anoka, MN). He would also make batches of it to sell at the annual Meatball/Torsk dinner bazaar and it would sell out right away. Members made a point to be there early enough to buy a couple of bags!

#### Ingredients:

3 cups white flour  
1 cup whole wheat flour  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup butter, melted  
1 1/2 cups buttermilk  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp. Salt

#### Directions:

Mix flours, sugar, soda and salt together. Add melted butter and then buttermilk. If too sticky, add small amount of flour. Make dough balls golf ball size. Roll out until thin. Bake on lefse grill at 375-400 degrees until you see brown spots showing on bottom. Flip over until light brown spots. Put into oven set at 200 degrees until dry or convection oven at 175 degrees. If you have a dehydrator, leave in until crisp.



**Photos:** [cheaprecipeblog.com/2015/04/norwegian-flatbread-recipe-flatbrod/](http://cheaprecipeblog.com/2015/04/norwegian-flatbread-recipe-flatbrod/); and Maynard Solomonson rolling his Flatbrød (submitted)

#### Vennligfolk Cultural Skills

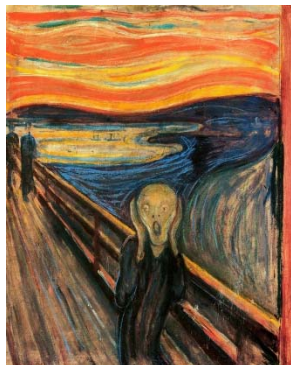
Make a batch of Maynard Solomonson's Prize-Winning Flatbrød along with other Norwegian recipes, document your work and earn a recognition pin! Cultural Skills coordinator Karen Trzebiatowski has all the details. Reach out to Karen at 715-824-7679 or send an email to: [Karentrzeb@gmail.com](mailto:Karentrzeb@gmail.com). The Sons of Norway website ([sofn.com](http://sofn.com)) also has information and in some cases, links to helpful YouTube videos.





## **a little in English... The Munch Museum is finally finished**

"The Munch Museum in Oslo was able to take over their new building in Bjørvika on Friday. Consequently, it is ready to start moving in." The channel NRK first wrote about the matter.



The museum is scheduled to open in the fall. The opening has been postponed several times. Among other things, there were problems with an air conditioning system. But in January it was announced that the issue had been solved.

"So, as of today, it is Munch who has formally built the museum and will fill it with content. There is still some work left to do before the building is finished. But now we can gradually move our capable employees in," Stein Olav Henrichsen said to news agency NTB. He is the director of the Munch Museum.

Henrichsen says on behalf of his 150 employees that he is both proud and pleased. They are ready to get started preparing everything for this fall's opening.

"This is a major milestone in Munch history. And an important step on the way to the goal, which is to open a new, fantastic, large and beautiful museum building for the public."

He says they will mark the handover with an alcohol-free toast to Edvard Munch. The artist gave all his art to the municipality after his death. That's how he made it accessible to the whole world.

If everything goes according to plan, the new Munch Museum can open in the fall, Henrichsen says.

"When we open to the public, we will have a really big celebration. It will be for everyone who wants to join in celebrating our great artist and the new fantastic Munch [Museum] in Bjørvika."

The museum will have 13 floors. There will be a roof terrace, bar and mezzanine on top. From the ninth floor and upwards, the building slopes 20 degrees.

Altogether, the building will contain the municipality's collection of Munch's works. There are about 28,000 original works by the artist. In addition, the [Rolf] Stenersen collection will be in the museum.

## **litt på norsk... Munchmuseet er endelig ferdig**

Munchmuseet i Oslo kunne fredag ta over den nye bygningen i Bjørvika. Dermed er det klart for å starte innflyttingen. Kanalen NRK skrev om saken først.



Museet skal etter planen åpne til høsten. Åpningen har blitt utsatt flere ganger. Det var blant annet problemene med et klima-anlegg. Men i januar ble det kjent at problemene var løst.

– Så fra i dag er det Munch som formelt har bygget og skal fylle det med innhold. Det er fortsatt en del arbeider som gjenstår før bygget er ferdig. Men vi kan nå etter hvert flytte inn våre dyktige medarbeidere, sier Stein Olav Henrichsen til nyhetsbyrået NTB. Han er direktør for Munchmuseet.

Henrichsen sier han er både stolt og glad på vegne av sine 150 medarbeidere. De er klare for å komme i gang med å gjøre alt klart for høstens åpning.

– Dette er en stor milepæl i Munch-historien. Og et viktig skritt på veien til målet, som er å åpne et nytt fantastisk stort og flott museumsbygg for publikum.

Han sier de skal markere overtakelsen med en alkoholfri skål for Edvard Munch. Kunstneren ga hele sin kunst til byen etter sin død. Slik gjorde han den tilgjengelig for hele verden.

Dersom alt går etter planen, kan det nye Munch-museet åpne i løpet av høsten. Det sier Henrichsen.

– Når vi åpner for publikum skal vi ha en skikkelig stor feiring. Det er for alle som har lyst til å være med å feire vår store kunstner og det nye fantastiske Munch i Bjørvika.

Museet får 13 etasjer. Det blir en takterrasse, bar og mesanin på toppen. Fra niende etasje og oppover heller bygningen 20 grader.

Til sammen skal bygget inneholde kommunens samling av Munchs verk. Det er omtrent 28.000 originale verk av kunstneren. I tillegg skal Stenersen-samlingen være i museet.

**Editor's note: Museum is now scheduled to open Oct. 22, 2021**



Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627  
Carl Rasmussen, Editor  
3136 Dans Ave  
Stevens Point, WI 54481 USA



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Sunday, September 12, 2021  
**"Scandinavian Travels"**  
by Butch Pomeroy

Sunday, October 10, 2021  
**"Scandinavian Happiness"**  
by Dr. Richard Ruppel

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.



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



**Leif Erikson Day  
October 9, 2021**

**A Good Day to  
Show your  
Nordic Colors!**

**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*



### Lefse...our secret weapon...

Is there anything better than the aroma of freshly-made lefse? With fall weather, many of us turn to favorite Norwegian recipes for homemade treats. When you gift friends or sell these favorites at lodge bake sales, don't forget to tuck in an invitation for non-members to join Vennligfolk Sons of Norway!

**Tusen takk for being a Sons of Norway member!**

