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Cultural Skills Coord.
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Trustee (2024-2026)

Karen Trzebiatowski

Trustee (2023-2025)

Kress Williamson

Trustee (2022-2024)

Carl Rasmussen

Vennligfolk Lodge
meets the second
Sunday evening, 5:00 pm
Sept thru Dec & April-May;
and, meets the second Sunday
Jan through March at 1PM
at St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
600 Wilshire Blvd Stevens
Point, WI

Vennligblad

Friendly pages for the 'friendly people' of Vennligfolk and friends
Sons of Norway Lodge #5-627 for Central Wisconsin
Stevens Point, Whiting, and Plover

Volume 31 Issue 3

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

MAI OG JUNI 2024

Fra presidenten:



A wonderful way to start this newsletter is to welcome new members to **Vennligfolk Lodge**. Mike and Donna Huglen, from Amherst

Junction, have joined our group of "friendly folk." A big *Velkommen* to Mike & Donna!

May is a busy month for our lodge. Since the Cultural Festival and Mother's Day fall on the second weekend of the month, we are changing our lodge meeting to the first Sunday evening, May 5th, at 5:00PM. Please note that change.

Vennligfolk Lodge has participated in the Portage County Cultural Festival since this annual event started. It is a great way to let the community know about our lodge. My first interaction with **Vennligfolk Lodge** was at the Cultural Festival in the late 1990's. Milo Harpstead gave me a brochure about the lodge when I stopped at the **Vennligfolk** table, and look where that led . . . I am now in my tenth year as the president of this lodge.

The Cultural Festival is also our lodge's only fundraiser. I feel it is important that we continue to participate in the Cultural Festival, but to do so takes many members to make it happen. We need members to make Scandinavian baked goods, prepare and make lefse, set up and take down our tables, work at our tables, etc.

Included in this newsletter is a listing of the sign-ups for baked goods and the work schedule for the Cultural Festival on May 11th. You can see there are still spaces that need to be filled. It is not too late for you to sign up. Please give me a

call or send me an email to sign up. And . . . if you are not able to provide any baked goods or work at the Cultural Festival, a monetary contribution would always be greatly appreciated. "*Mange takk!*"

One of the highlights of summer is our annual Midsommer Celebration at the South New Hope Church grounds. It is such a picturesque setting, with our tables on the beautiful grounds and the white Norwegian church as the background. This year our picnic is on Tuesday, June 18th, starting at 5:00PM.

Arno and I will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary on June 15th. Honestly, the years have flown by since we were that young couple just starting our marriage and our teaching careers. After raising two children and 35 years of teaching, Arno & I now get to enjoy retirement, our five grandchildren, being a part of **Vennligfolk Lodge**, and just about anything else that we want to do. Life is good!

Hilsen, Susan Morton

Treasurer Judy Pesanka reports: as of April 17, our lodge showed a balance of \$1654.66.

Our popular lefse and bake goods sales at Cultural Fest raise funds that support our many fine activities all year. Please help as you can!

Judy P.

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Learn Norsk Language Opportunity

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

Mai

- Ozz Hagen-4
- Lodge meeting-May 5
- Cultural Fest-11
- Mother's Day-12
- Kress Williamson-14
- syttende mai-17
- Memorial Day-27

May						
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	

Juni

- Father's Day U.S. – 16
- Midtsommer - 18
- Louise Lang – 24

June						
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						

VENNLIGBLAD

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???



May 5: 5PM "Scandinavian & Scottish Folk Tunes" by Violinist Joanna Johnson, fiddler, singer, songwriter, and dancer. She is the 2017 US National Scottish Fiddling Champion and has received several awards for her original compositions in the Scottish Style. Joanna is a violinist in the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra and Concertmistress of the Wausau Symphony. **Servers:** TBD, **Marshal:** TBD **Table Décor:** TBD

May 11: Portage County Cultural Festival "Food, Fun, & Music from Around the World" returns to Stevens Point Area Senior High. Mark your calendars and make plans to participate in this opportunity to celebrate and demonstrate our Scandinavian heritage. Our ever-popular lefse and bake goods sales raise funds to support our lodge activities throughout the year.



May 17 Syttende Mai – Remember to display your colors! And, remember too, the annual Syttende Mai Festive held in Stoughton, Wisconsin May 17-19. Join thousands of others to celebrate Norwegian Heritage. See the famed Stoughton Norwegian Dancers, Hardanger Fiddle Performances, Norse Costume Style Show, Viking Games Strongman Competition, the always fun, Norwegian Parade down Main Street (Sunday) and, much more. More details at: www.stoughtonfestivals.com

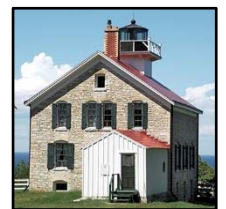


June 18 - Midtsommer Celebration at the South New Hope Church grounds, starting at 5:00 PM. Save the date! There will be a food sign-up at our May meeting. Take Highway 10 east from Stevens Point to Highway 161 to County Road T and go north (left) on T for approximately 0.7 mile to the church. Also, check out: facebook.com/SouthNewHope/ The event will be inside the church in case of rain.



Visit Bailey's Harbor Range Light June 10-15 Lynn & Carl Rasmussen will be docents for the Bailey's Harbor Range Light the 2nd week of June. Their days on duty are Monday & Tuesday and Thursday thru Saturday 10AM to 3PM. Make plans to come visit that week, include a walk in the Ridges Sanctuary and a drive out to see the Canna Island Lighthouse.

The Pottawatomie Lighthouse on Rock Island in Door County was completed in 1858. Patti Rous and friends will be docents there September 9 through 15. To reach the lighthouse takes a little Viking grit: first a ferry to Washington Island, then another ferry to Rock Island, followed by a 1+ mile hike to the lighthouse. Hours 10 AM to 4 PM daily. This lighthouse was one of several maintained by Lynn Rasmussen's father, Elmer while on active Coast Guard duty.



Sept 8 – Marvelous Monarch Butterfly returns with Kathy McGrath
October 13 - The Split of New Hope Church, Lodge member, Don Romundson, JD will describe the 1880 split of the New Hope Lutheran Church into North and South congregations over a disagreement of doctrine. Don retired after a 35-year career as an attorney. He has pursued a lifelong interest in local Norwegian history.

Nov 10 Christmas in Norway by Patti Rous

Odds & Ends



Someone had a birthday April 1.
Can you guess who?



Karen Trzebiatowski received a long-overdue recognition in February as a SONS Cultural Skills mentor



Oz and Lois Hagen viewed the new SONS Head Quarters on a November trip to Minneapolis



Lodge Pres. Susan Morton with brother, Tom Johnson – Feb 11



"A Child of a King" speaker Tom Johnson described his genealogical connection to Norway's King Haakin IV. Tom is brother to Lodge Pres. Susan Morton



"Norway Art on display Jan 14



Dave Glomstad presented on the Wisconsin Civil War 15th Regiment also called the Scandinavian Regiment March 10



Members pursuing Cultural Skills Cooking pins over two days made over 100 lefse rounds at the St Pauls UMC kitchen in mid-April



Ole Hagen, An Early Washington Islander

by Lynn Rasmussen, adapted from "The Hagen/Gudmundsen Story" - Percy Hagen

My great grandfather Ole Hagen was born December 15, 1851, in Elverum, Norway which is about 70 miles north-northeast of Oslo. According to Elverum parish records, Ole was christened as Ole Olson. One set of records lists him as Ole Olsen Hestehagen. The name of his father's home was Hestehagen with its literal translation being "horse garden." Along the way Ole dropped the "Heste" from his name probably for ease of spelling and pronunciation. Family members were eternally grateful he dropped the horse and kept the garden!

Ole's father, Ole Vilhelmsen was a forester, and Ole told of how his father used to hunt elk with packs of dogs. Very little is known regarding Ole's siblings and he never mentioned a brother, nor made any known attempts to get in touch with him after he came to the United

States. He is known to have had two cousins, Louis and Herman Berg, who came to the United States and played an important part in where Ole eventually set down roots.

Although dates are lacking, a great deal was recorded about Ole's experiences before he left Norway. He was an expert woodsman, fisherman, and hunter. These skills were learned at an early age in the heavily wooded, mountainous country around Elverum. For a considerable period before and after he went into military service, he made his living by trapping, traveling through the woods on skis on which he was quite expert.

It was not unusual to encounter terrain where he could glide five miles at a stretch down a mountainside where rocks, fallen trees, and other obstacles were safely blanketed by several feet of snow. In particularly desolate areas he used skis which were turned up at both ends so in the event a ski end broke off, he could still use it. To travel by foot through the mountains was almost sure death. While trapping for fur, he also set traps for birds and animals for food. He used horse hair snares, baited with Mountain Ash berries for birds and always had set lines out for fish.

In 1869 when Ole was 18 years old, he became subject to military service, and reported to Oslo for this purpose. For the next five years, he put in 30 days a year in the army,

supporting himself in the off months by working in a bakery and as a payroll messenger for a wholesaler named Grutting. His duties there included long trips on skis to carry mail as well as the payroll to various segments of the rather widespread Grutting interests. Many times, this was across the border into Sweden. Ole often told his children of the rigors of such trips and the constant fear that he was going to be held up.



Ole & Fanny Hagen and their 9 children – 1896
My grandma Martha stands just right of Fanny

Very often Ole was forced to camp out while on one of his trips. Since a night in the open Norwegian mountains was far from pleasant, he always tried to time his trips to take advantage of the infrequent accommodations know along the way. One evening he was elated to find an Inn in an area so sparsely settled that he had already resigned himself to sleeping under the stars.

However, after registering, his elation cooled somewhat because of the dirty and slovenly appearance of both the Inn and the inn keeper's wife who was also the cook. But it was still a roof over his head for the night.

In 1880 at age 29, Ole married Fanny Paulsen, who at the time was living in Oslo. The couple remained in Oslo until 1883, when they, their infant son Charlie (Carl), and Fanny's widowed mother, sailed for the United States. Regarding the motives that prompted them to seek a new life in the new world, some credit is given to a letter which Fanny had received from her younger brother, Karl (Charlie) Paulsen who was then living in the US. He wrote glowingly about the wonderful new country and its hospitable people, declaring that "people were so honest, you could hang dollar bills on the clothes line and never have a one of them stolen."

Ole and his family landed in New York City and eventually made their way to Chicago. His cousins, Louis and Herman Berg were living on Washington Island in Wisconsin and after receiving a letter from them Ole left his family and went to visit. He was immediately captivated by the locale, particularly with its promise of unlimited hunting and fishing, and soon sent for his family. He rented a house in Washington Harbor on the north end of the island and moved his family there in early summer 1883. His second son, Jule, was born in this house.

Meet Ole Hagen - - - continued

While living there, Ole started building a home on farmland he purchased in West Harbor near the bay of Green Bay. As soon as it was habitable, he moved there with his family.

For a considerable time, all water used on the farm was hauled by ox team from West Harbor over a half-mile away. In locating the site for his first well, Ole used a forked stick and the usual techniques of water witchery. That he was adept in this mystic art is attested to by the fact that, despite the relatively high ground on which the farm was located, he struck water in less than 20 feet. The well itself, which Ole dug by hand was the open variety with a bucket attached on a windlass. As the digging progressed, Ole put in a retaining wall of timbers which extended downward to the water pool. Later, a standard closed well was dug and equipped with a hand powered pump but, the old well continued to furnish water for the farm animals for many years.

Ole was a prodigious walker and the stories about his ability in this respect are family legends. A favorite is about the time when his son Henry, who was already an adult but still unmarried and living at home, failed to come home one night. Ole awoke around midnight, and went to Henry's bedroom only to find it empty. He dressed and started walking through the heavy snow to Washington Harbor, over four miles. When he came to his son Harry's house, he saw Henry's skis leaning against the house so he assumed that he was staying with Harry and was safe. Without so much as a knock at the door, he turned around, walked the four miles back to the farm, and went quietly to bed.

Through the years the couple raised nine children (5 boys, 4 girls) who all lived into adulthood: Carl, Jule, Martha (my grandmother), Sigrid, Swara, Harry, Henry, Fanny, and Tillie. There is a family picture taken about 1896, showing Ole with Fanny and their nine children. From this and a few others, we gained a portrait of a small, wiry, stocky, man. A military picture taken in Norway shows him clean shaven, but he later grew a full beard which he wore for years. On the day he shaved his beard off, none of his children recognized him when he walked in the house and the younger ones were afraid of the "stranger."

It was no fault of Ole's that his farm was not more successful from a financial standpoint. During the years that he was developing his acres, the country as a whole passed through recurrent depressions that always seemed to hit the farmers first. When a creamery was established on the island, Ole concentrated his efforts on dairy farming, but, this too was

far from profitable. To supplement his income from farming, he took any job available that would bring in a little money. Sometimes this was as little as 50 cents for a full day of cutting cord wood.

Ole was tremendously proud of his large family, and although quite a strict disciplinarian, he had that happy faculty of gaining compliance with his orders without resentment. He was fiercely devoted to his adopted country. Although he was never able to completely master the English language, he made a strict rule that English was to be the spoken language around his home.



Ole & Fanny Hagen at the homestead - undated

Ole was a rabid baseball fan, made more rabid by the fact that three of his boys played on the Washington Island team. In 1931, son Jule took him on a trip to Detroit to see the New York Yankees play the Detroit Tigers, his first look at the greats of the game. He was however, greatly disillusioned when

Babe Ruth failed to get even a long foul ball while striking out three times. "That Babe Root!" Ole said disgustedly, "He couldn't make the Washington Island team!"

Ole finally sold his farm to his son Henry, and he and Fanny lived their remaining years in the house son Jule had occupied before moving to St. Ignace, Michigan. He remained very active during those twilight years spending his time bass fishing and traveling around the Island to visit the families of his children. He always credited his excellent vitality to such home remedies as Mountain Ash berries and the like.

On December 27, 1933, Ole had risen early and visited daughter Tillie's house before starting out for son Swara's home. He apparently overtaxed himself by the brisk walk in the raw wind. When he reached the house, his grandson Donald was helping him off with his coat when he sighed twice, slipped to the floor, and died. His passing was so typical of the man, as if he had planned this quiet, dignified exit so as to create a very minimum of trouble and disturbance. He was 82.

Baked Goods Sign-Up - Cultural Festival

Contact Susan Morton by email skaymorton@hotmail.com or phone

Rosettes:

1. Kathy Clucas
2. Karen Trzebiatowski
3. Ozz & Lois Hagen

Sandbakels (2 dozen):

1. _____

Krumkaka (2 dozen):

1. Bea Berg
2. Bette Schneider

Kringla (puff pastry)

Slice into 16 pieces (per recipe) and put into baggies:

1. Charlotte Hensler
2. Susan Morton
3. _____

Norwegian Almond Cake:

1. Rita Johnson
2. Birdie Granum
3. _____
4. _____

Fudge:

1. Lois Hagen
2. _____

Macaroons:

1. Ron Hensler
2. _____



Photo by MatPrat



Photo by Pillsbury

I am not able to offer baked goods but will make a monetary contribution to Vennligfolk:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. Judy Pesanka | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Work Sign-Up - Cultural Festival

Contact Susan Morton by email skaymorton@hotmail.com or phone

Set-Up 8AM – 9:00AM

715-341-7248

1. Arno & Susan Morton
2. Mark Hansen

10 AM – 1:00PM

1. Patti Rous
2. Jen Haas
3. Bette Schneider
4. Jerry Schneider
5. Erin Rasmussen

1PM – 4:00PM

1. Jane Gjevre
2. Bea Berg
3. _____
4. _____

3PM – 5:00PM

(Clean Up & Take Down)

1. Kathy Clucas
2. Tori Clucas

All or Most of the Day:

1. Arno & Susan Morton
2. Carl Rasmussen
3. Lynn Rasmussen
4. Ron Hensler

Fri, Apr 10 St Pauls UMC

8 AM to 11 AM

Peel, cook, & rice potatoes

Lynn Rasmussen
Sally Prideaux - Kathy Clucas

Two more people needed!

Email or phone Lynn/Carl
lynnrathome@gmail.com

715-341-7494



Sat, Apr 11

At Rasmussen home

7AM to 9:30 AM

Mix, measure, & roll balls:

Lynn & Erin Rasmussen
Patti Rous - Jane Gjevre

Two more people needed!

Email or phone Lynn/Carl

New Krone Design Revealed

Norway's 20-krone coin has gotten a new look! To commemorate the 750 years since King Magnus VI proclaimed the third nationwide legal code in 1274, a call went out for design submissions.



The winner of that competition was Michael Guilfoyle, an already established coin designer who runs his own coin and metal trade business in Wales. The 60-year-old Welshman was tipped off by a Norwegian friend about the contest and made his submission despite some

stiff competition from Norwegian competitors.

Guilfoyle's design for the krone ultimately won out because of the way it linked the Middle Ages to the present and symbolizes the "legislation's significance for the country." The coin features an image of King Magnus on horseback, carrying the scales of justice and a shield, to represent the Law of the Land, or *landsloven*.

The new coin was revealed at the museum of Cultural History in Oslo, with Michael and his wife in attendance. It went into circulation February 1 of this year.

Cultural Skills Corner - Reading/Literature

Woman, Captain, Rebel

By Carl Rasmussen



Washington Island is known for its many residents with deep Scandinavian heritage. The island is also known for being one of the oldest Icelandic settlements in the United States.

Lynn and I subscribe to the Washington Island History Facebook group and a recent regular contributor, Willie Engelson, posted, "I am recommending the book, *Woman, Captain, Rebel*" to all of you who have Icelandic blood coursing through your veins. Other Islanders may have an interest as well!"

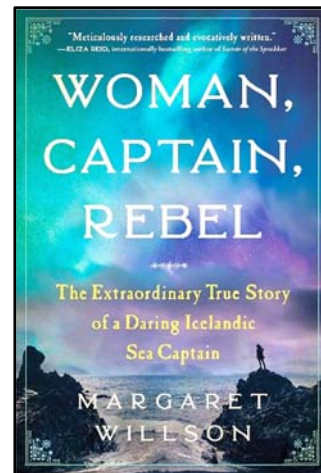
The book's setting is in southwest Iceland in the Eyraþakki region a place where many of the Washington Islanders forebears emigrated from.

Engelson says, "although set in 18th and early 19th centuries before most of the Icelandic emigration began, the book is illustrative of the fishing industry and economic and cultural conditions and would have certainly been familiar to our emigrant ancestors."

"Plus," he adds, "some of the Island Icelandic descendants are related to the book's protagonist!" Late in the book, Thordur Gudmundsen is mentioned as a county government official. He is the father of prominent Washington Island immigrants Arni and Theodore Gudmundsen,.

Amazon Books describes the story as, "A daring and magnificent historical nonfiction narrative account of Iceland's most famous female sea captain who constantly fought for women's rights and equality—and who also solved one of the country's most notorious robberies!"

"Weaving together fastidious research and captivating prose," the Amazon's review continues, "author Margaret Willson reveals Captain Thurídur's fascinating story, her extraordinary courage, intelligence, and personal integrity. History would have us believe the sea has always been a male realm and the idea of female captains almost unthinkable. But there is one exception, so notable she defies any expectation. . . This is her remarkable story."



Willie Engelson suggests "this is a book to sit back in your recliner in front of your fireplace with a glass of wine and a brick of cheese and start to get the feel of what our ancestors went through and what prompted them to make the life-altering decision to leave their home land. You should be grateful. I am."

Available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other fine places where books are sold.

snakker du norsk?

Would you like to?

If you are interested in getting together with others occasionally to practice speaking Norwegian – or talk with others who know it, perhaps, for even those who grew up talking it – please let Lodge Language Specialist, Jan Flatoff know. Leave a message for her at ernaj@charter.net or 715-344-7935. She will get back to you after traveling on vacation May 20th. Please let any non-Vennligfolk members who might be interested know, also. She hopes a few of us can meet and talk *norsk* this summer!

Ja, jeg snakker litt norsk!

Finnish Conductor to Head Chicago Symphony



At just 28 years old, Finnish conductor Klaus Mäkelä was hired in March as the music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, making him the youngest to take the lead since its formation in 1891. "When you see Klaus conduct, there's such a connection between him and the orchestra," president Jeff Alexander told the Associated Press, "and you can just feel it." Mäkelä will begin his new post in 2027 view him in action at:

photo: marco-borggreve_oslo-philharmonic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEYMHUFJJW0>



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

**Scandinavian
 & Scottish Folk Tunes**
 by Violinist, Joanna Johnson
 Sunday May 5 at 5PM

Midtsommer
 Tues June 18 at 5PM
 South New Hope Church

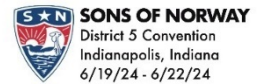



Help Spread the Sunshine! Our Lodge Sunshine Coordinator Bea Berg, asks if you hear of a member who has been ill, had surgery, a family circumstance, or something to celebrate, phone Bea at: [715-252-8853](tel:715-252-8853) or email to: beaberg96@gmail.com.
 Takk and stay sunny!



**Sons of Norway
 District 5
 Convention 2024**
 Indianapolis Crowne Plaza
 Airport Hotel
 June 19-22, 2024

RACING TO THE FUTURE



The SON District 5 Convention will be held in Indianapolis this year. The convention will discuss matters that affect district programs and policies for the district. In addition, there are plenty of classes, speakers, and displays related to Norwegian, and Nordic culture. Although no one from Vennligfolk will be attending, check for post-conference updates on the District-5 website.

Do you have an interesting program about Norway or Scandinavia? Know of a speaker with a great general interest topic? Please contact our lodge Program Director, Charlotte Hensler at: chensler@wi-net.com.



Tusen takk

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 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 10th of the even-numbered months. Send it to Carl Rasmussen at 3136 Dans Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by e-mail addressed to: Vennligblad@gmail.com; Takk *Carl Rasmussen, Editor*