

Fosselyngen Runespeak

juli og august 2023
Volume 48 No. 4



Fosselyngen Lodge No. 5-082, Sons of Norway

PO Box 20957, Milwaukee, WI 53220

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT LODGE MEETING LOCATION!

We are trying a new location for the August, September, and October Social/Cultural meetings at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 12400 W. Cold Spring Rd., New Berlin, WI 53151. The meeting room is on the first floor, and parking is very convenient in their lot.

FOSELYNGEN LODGE – CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|---|
| JULY | 10 Monday | Lodge Picnic at Steepleview Apartments Community Room
12455 W. Janesville Rd. Muskego, 5 PM
(See full details including reservation information on Page 3.) |
| AUGUST | 14 Monday | Soc/Cult Meeting at Resurrection Lutheran Church
12400 W. Cold Spring Rd., New Berlin, WI
Socialize at 5:30 PM. Dinner at 6 PM. Meeting at about 6:45 PM.
Program:
1. Norse Wedding Video - Shirley Englemann
2. Sue will make a presentation about Norwegian silver and Solje jewelry.
(See full details of meeting on Page 3.) |
| SEPTEMBER | 11 Monday | Soc/Cult Meeting at Resurrection Lutheran Church in New Berlin
See brief description of program on Page 5.
(See September/October 2023 <i>Runespeak</i> for full details of meeting.) |
| OCTOBER | 9 Monday | Soc/Cult Meeting at Resurrection Lutheran Church in New Berlin
See brief description of program on Page 5.
(See September/October 2023 <i>Runespeak</i> for full details of meeting.) |

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Like the modern alphabet, runes were the written symbols of our Norse ancestors. Understood only by the very wise, they were used to communicate with others, as well as with the ancient gods.

FRA PRESIDENTEN

(juli og august 2023)

Dear Members,

It has been a busy spring. Our lodge has sponsored two wonderful excursions. On May 31st, a group traveled to Stoughton and was treated to a great tour of the Livsreise Museum and lunch at the Mandt lodge next door. On June 10th, our group traveled to Geneva, IL and received an excellent private tour and lecture about the Viking Ship on site at the Geneva Museum and a delicious lunch at Stockholm's Restaurant. Thanks to all who participated. Both trips were very enjoyable and a great opportunity to learn more about each other and our heritage!

Our next meeting is also our lodge picnic. It will take place on Monday, July 10th at 5PM at Steepleview Apartments Community Room, 12455 W. Janesville Rd., Muskego. The cost is \$5.00, and you pay at the picnic. **Please RSVP to Sue at 414-526-8312 or sjroedel@gmail.com by July 1st so we can order the correct amount of food.** Our entertainment will include a Norwegian Jeopardy game and a documentary short "Valley to Valley" video clip by Claire Bjorgo, member Mark Bjorgo's daughter on their Norwegian journey. You won't want to miss it! Hope to see you there.

As I write this, we are receiving the much-needed rain, and I see the grass is greening up already. I hope you are having a good day, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Sue Roedel
414-526-8312
sjroedel@gmail.com

2023 CHRISTMAS PARTY

We have chosen Maggiano's Italian Restaurant at Mayfair Mall for the Lodge Christmas Party on Sunday, December 17th, from noon to 3:00 PM. Watch future newsletters for details.

Arlette Johnson

FOSELYNGEN OFFICERS

President	Sue Berg Roedel	414-526-8312
Vice-President	*Arlette Johnson	414-368-3324
Treasurer	Gretchen Bjork	262-502-9197
Secretary (Correspondence)	Janice Gregoire	262-784-6953
Secretary (Recording)	Maureen Welli	414-774-0507

If you have any questions, please call one of the above officers.

***NOTE:** For membership information, call our Vice-President, Arlette Johnson.

You Are Invited to Attend Our Fosselyngen Lodge Picnic!



Monday, July 10th, 2023 at 5PM

Location: Steepleview Apartments Community Room, 12455 W. Janesville Rd., Muskego

Turn off from Janesville Rd. onto S. Lowell Place. Lowell is one block west of SV Main entrance. Use the parking lot on the left and enter the door near the bench. (This is not the main entrance door).

Cost- \$5.00 per person. Pay at the picnic. Catered Hamburgers, Brats, Hot Dogs and Salads. Soft drinks and water provided. Feel free to bring your own preferred drink.

Please RSVP to Sue at 414-526-8312 or email sjroedel@gmail.com by July 1st, so we can order the correct amount of food.

At our picnic, Claire Bjorgo, member Mark Bjorgo's daughter, will share her video of the family trip to Norway. Many members heard Mark's entertaining story about returning family items from their immigrant ancestors to a Norwegian museum. Now we will view Claire's video of this event, a class project at UWM.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 2023

Social/Cultural Meeting

Resurrection Lutheran Church

12400 W. Cold Spring Rd., New Berlin, WI 53151

Socialize at 5:30 PM.

Dinner at 6 PM. Menu: Spaghetti and meatballs

Meeting starts at about 6:45 PM.

Program

- Norse Wedding Video - Shirley Englemann will introduce the 2014 Wedding Lodge Video which reenacted a Norwegian wedding event.
- Our president Sue will give us a presentation about the powerful symbol of Norwegian silver and Solje jewelry that is prominent on Norwegian bunads. So, wear or bring your Solje to this meeting, and we can admire it together. We will also have jewelry including Solje from our Buttik for sale at a 50% discount. Only cash or checks accepted for payment.

Please Note: If you receive a notice or call that a member is sick, in a nursing home or has passed away, **call Nancy Sande or Ellie Thoresen so that the person can be remembered and other officers notified.**

Also, don't forget to **notify Arlette Johnson when a member of the Lodge passes away,** since Arlette must notify the Sons of Norway office in Minneapolis. Many people do not purchase a newspaper, and others do not indicate in the obituary that they were a member of Sons of Norway.

Sympathy

Fosselyngen Lodge extends its sympathy to the following:



To Tom Westgaard in the loss of his wife CC Fredericka Westgaard who passed away May 25th, 2023. CC was a member since 1989 and was a former pianist for the lodge.



VIKING SHIP IN TEMPLAR PARK, JUNE 10TH, 2023
(L-R) KEN DALLMANN, SCOTT ESKRIDGE, JANET DALLMANN, CHERYL ESKRIDGE, MARY & PHIL REYKDAL, SUE ROEDEL, AND SHEILA KERSHEK.



LIVSREISE NORWEGIAN HERITAGE CENTER IN STOUGHTON, MAY 31ST, 2023

(L-R IN BACK) MARY TAYLOR, BARB VESAS, KEN DALLMANN BEHIND JANET DALLMANN, DARYL & BONNIE WUNROW, JACK LOFTE, KAREN RICCOBONO, GLORIA BERG, MARY & PHIL REYKDAL, AND ELLA MARIE ENGER

(L-R IN FRONT) REBECCA TAALBI IN FRONT OF HER HUSBAND GUS, GRETCHEN BJORK, ARLETTE JOHNSON, SUE ROEDEL, AND SANDRA KELLY

NOTE THE BUNAD COSTUME IN THE BACKGROUND THAT WAS DONATED BY OUR LODGE TO THE CENTER AND IS NOW FEATURED IN THE ATRIUM.

PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023 SOC/CULT MEETINGS

September 11th – The Gjetøst/Primøst cheese story. Does your family enjoy Ski Queen Norse Brown Cheese? We will learn about how Norwegian brown cheese is made and enjoy samples of this delicacy, courtesy of Norseland.

October 9th – Mike Pelacek, a member of our neighbor Racine Lodge, will share his program about a Norwegian who lived on Jones Island in the Milwaukee harbor.

Introducing my Norwegian/American Ancestors, by Mark Bjorgo

(As presented at April 10th, 2023 Lodge Meeting)



←
Emigrants from the North Bjorgo farm in Nord Aurdal, Valdres region of Norway were (back L to R) Jul Julson, Ole Julson, (front L to R) Haldor Julson, Gunhild Gordon, Erik Bjorgo

My great-grandparents, Erik Julson Bjorgo (1852-1920) and Ingeborg Mikkelsdatter Lien (1853-1932) originated from the Valdres region of Norway. Erik left Norway around 1875 and Ingeborg later in 1880. Erik was from the Nord (North) Bjorgo farm in Aurdal and Ingeborg from the Lien farm in Sor (South) Aurdal. Erik first emigrated to Kensett, IA but later moved to Buffalo County, Wisconsin where his brothers Haldor and Ole eventually settled after their emigration from Norway around 1867. His younger brother Jul would eventually join the brothers in Bennet Valley of Dover Township in 1880, around the same time that Ingeborg made her voyage to America. It was interesting that all the brothers ended up using “Julson” as their surname and only Erik and his family used “Bjorgo.” His oldest sister Gunhild, who Erik emigrated with, and her husband took the surname “Gordon” (her husband was Nils Tidemandson Odegard) and remained in Iowa. Only their oldest brother, Gunnar and youngest sister, Sigrid remained in Norway. There were three Bjorgo farms in Valdres (North, Middle and South). The North Bjorgo farm is still in the family name, and we’ve been able to visit it and our Norwegian relatives on our visits there.

In January of 2023 we made a trip to Norway to donate two items Erik and Ingeborg brought with them on their journey to America, a leather wallet and New Testament Bible to the Norwegian Emigration Museum in Hamar, Norway [website: <https://utvandremuseet.no/en>]. My daughter, Claire Bjorgo, captured the trip and donation to the museum for a film she is preparing as her final project for her degree in film from UW-Milwaukee this May. A short clip of her project can be found on her YouTube channel from this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GXD2vBstlo>

A reporter from a local paper in Norway visited the museum during our visit and published an article about the donation and Claire’s film project.



Saga Column, Sagasøyla or Eidsvollsmonumentet?

By Daryl Wunrow



In 2000 my first wife Joanna (deceased 2003) and I visited Norway and my Norwegian cousins, our first visit to my grandmother's homeland. At one point in our road trip, we were travelling by car between Bergen and Trondheim, crossing the Jotunheimen Mountains on the famous Sognefjellet National Tourist Road, known as the 'roof of Norway'. The route (55) was for centuries the only road connecting east and west Norway. The scenery was spectacular. As we neared Leirdalen, something off to our left captured our attention. Of course, we stopped and inquired at the nearby hotel about this curious structure, and we even bought a booklet that gave the story of this historic site. Here is what we found out.

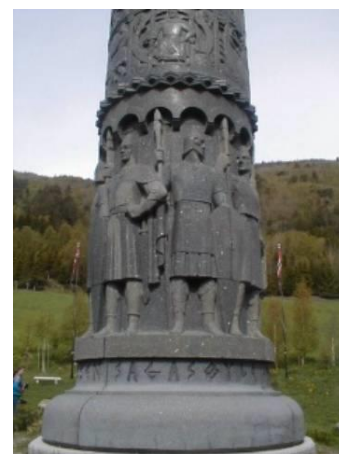


The Saga Column until 1992 was called "Eidsvollsmonumentet". It is a 112-feet-high column with sculpture and reliefs and was designed by the sculptor Wilhelm Rasmussen in the 1920s. The artwork was completed and erected in 1992 at Elveseter tourist hotel in Leirdalen, a side valley to Bøverdalen in Lom municipality. From its foundation to the top of the crown the pillar is 131 feet high. It stands 108 feet over ground level. The scenes on the statue show Norway's history from the battle of Hafsrfjord until the country got its constitution at Eidsvoll in 1814. At the top is a rider statue of Harald Hårfagre, the king who unified Norway as a kingdom at Hafsrfjord. But why is this seemingly significant historical monument located high in the mountains away from urban areas?



Wilhelm Rasmussen, c. 1935

The back story begins as early as 1836, when the poet Henrik Wergeland issued a call to the Norwegian people to build a memorial to mark Norway's independence. The monument was to be built outside the parliament building in Eidsvoll and was to be called "Eidsvollssøyla" – the Eidsvoll Pillar. The sculptor Rasmussen won the competition to design the monument. The pillar's decoration represents the history of Norway from the unification of the country up to the National Congress in 1814.



When the war and occupation by Germany began in 1940, the pillar was half-complete and the rest was only modelled in plaster. The War brought work to a halt. When the matter was again brought up in Parliament after the war, political disagreement prevented work from re-commencing. The completion of the artwork was then shelved because the artist had expressed sympathy with the German occupation forces. It eventually became impossible to erect a national monument made by a man who had served a sentence for treason. The pillar lay in storage for 20 years until Åmund Elvesæter took the initiative to have it erected.

In the 1980s, the previous generation's owner of Elveseter Hotell, Åmund Elveseter, came across the elements that were stored in a shed on Skøyen in Oslo. The art collector Elveseter, who during the war was also a member of the Norwegian resistance movement, believed that Norway's national monument deserved a better fate. He took matters into his own hands, ensured that the pillar was restored and completed, and had it erected at Elveseter in 1992. It has since become a well-visited tourist attraction.

I was fortunate to "discover" this hidden historical treasure in 2000, just eight years after its completion, while on a road trip from Bergen to Trondheim. Lucky me!

HOW TO CONTACT FOSSELYNGEN LODGE:

To Phone: Call 414-526-8312

To Send Postal Mail:

Fosselyngen Lodge No. 5-082
Sons of Norway
PO Box 20957
Milwaukee, WI 53220

Fosselyngen Lodge Web Site:

<https://sonsofnorwaymilwaukee.org/index.html>

Fosselyngen Lodge Facebook Site:

<https://facebook.com/fosselyngenlodge>

*** JOIN US IN SONG ***

Festival City Chorus, Milwaukee's own a cappella chorus, is working diligently to prepare for performances and contests.

We rehearse most Tuesday evenings at Mount Hope Lutheran Church, 8633 W. Becher.

ALL males interested in learning more about us are encouraged to call our hotline: 414-281-SING (7464)

Don Doss, SON Member

SPORTS MEDAL PROGRAM

Just a reminder that forms and information about the Sports Medal Program are available. Contact Dennis Dale at 414-771-3470 or by mail at 1527 Alice Street, Wauwatosa, 53213.

NEWSLETTER MAILING STAFF

Arlette Johnson
Thanks for helping with the
May/June issue.

CHANGE OF POSTAL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, OR EMAIL ADDRESS

If you have a change of any of these items, **please** notify the Sons of Norway International Headquarters Membership Department.

Either phone their office at 800-945-8851, or you can log on to the Sons of Norway website (<https://www.sofn.com>) and view & update your member profile.

Have You Had a Financial Checkup Lately?

If not, contact your field staff representative, Greg Ragan, to set up an appointment to discuss your financial needs at no cost to you. This is a benefit of membership.

Greg Ragan, Sons of Norway
Fraternal Benefits Counselor,
Insurance & Investments
7042 Kinnikinnick Drive
Roscoe, IL 61073

Phone: 815-623-8817 (Office)

Email: gragan51@gmail.com

www.sonsofnorwayblog.blogspot.com

Designed to provide up-to-date commentary or news on issues related to Norway and Sons of Norway.

Notice: All articles & information for the September/October 2023 newsletter are **due by August 15th**.

Email articles to the editor, John Schneble, csjohn@att.net or mail to: 1024 North 121st Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53226. The editor reserves the right to edit all articles.

VASA PARK

35W217 Route 31
South Elgin, IL 60177

The 43rd Scandinavian Day Festival

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Festival Hours are from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

\$10.00 per person, Children 12 and under free!

For full information go to www.scandinaviandayil.com

REMINDER:

Be sure to go to the Milwaukee Art Museum, to visit the exhibition *Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890–1980*, before the exhibition closes on July 23rd, 2023.

NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE CLASS REGISTRATION FORM – SEPTEMBER 2023

Classes will be on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (mixed beginner and intermediate).

Held at: MT. HOPE CHURCH 86th and Becher in West Allis

2023 Dates: September 13th & 27th, October 11th & 25th, and November 8th & 15th -- all Wednesdays.

Instructor: Mette L. Baran

Class fees \$20 per session. Payable in full (\$120) to Fosselyngen Lodge by August 25th, 2023.

Student Name _____

Contact phone number _____ Email _____

Submit this sheet with check payable to Fosselyngen Lodge and mail to Gretchen Bjork, W149N8235 Norman Dr, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051.

Call Heidi w/questions 262-716-9118.

(You can also give payment to Gretchen or an officer at a regular meeting.)

If not enough students sign up, the lodge reserves the right to cancel classes and refund money. So please sign up soon and bring your friends.

Non-members are welcome but will be charged \$22 per session. (\$132 total)



Fosselyngen Lodge No. 5-082
Sons of Norway
PO Box 20957
Milwaukee, WI 53220

A Norwegian, an Irishman and a German were sentenced to be electrocuted. First, the Irishman was strapped in the chair and the switch was pushed. Nothing happened, so the Irishman was freed. Same thing happened to the German.

As the Norwegian was led into the execution room, the prison guard remarked, "Sure has been a lucky day for those two guys." The Norwegian said, "Vell, I should say so, becoss I can see the plug has come out of the socket under the chair."

Ole: "Uff da. Dose people upstairs drive me goofy! Last night dey stomped and pounded on de floor till almost midnight."

Landlord: "Did they wake you up?"

Ole: "No. It vas lucky I was playing my tuba."

Monthly meetings vary. Please see page one for dates, times, and location of meetings.
 Web site: <http://sonsofnorwaymilwaukee.org>

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and provide quality insurance and financial products to its members. Sons of Norways mission er a fremme og ivareta norske kulturtradisjoner, og samtidig tilby de beste forsikrings-og finansprodukter til alle medlemmer.

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