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Trustee (2023-2025)
Kress Williamson

Trustee (2022-2024)
Carl Rasmussen

Trustee (2021-2023)
Ron Hensle.

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 friends
Sons of Norway Lodge #5-627 for Central Wisconsin
Stevens Point, Whiting, and Plover

Volume 30 Issue 3

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

MAI OG JUNI 2023

Fra presidenten:



Being a teacher for 35 years, the month of May brought with it the anticipation of a summer "break."

Summer break was on the minds of all of my students, and yes, it was on my mind too. May was one of the busiest months of the school year with field trips, report cards, and all the other activities that came with ending the school year. In many ways, I get those same feelings at this time of year with **Vennligfolk Lodge**.

May is going to be a busy month for our lodge. We have our Lodge meeting on May 7th (note the change of date), and for the first time in three years, we are participating in the Portage County Cultural Festival on May 13th. It takes many hands and lots of hours for Vennligfolk Lodge to participate in the Cultural Festival. "Tusen takk" to all the members who have already signed up to bake, prepare lefse, and to work at the Cultural Festival!

If you did not get a chance to sign up to help, you will get a chance to do that at our May 7th meeting. You could also call or email me to sign up. Our participation in this community event is important. This is our one and only yearly fundraiser for our lodge. It also is a wonderful way to let the community know about **Vennligfolk Lodge**. I still remember going to the **Vennligfolk** tables at SPASH many years ago and getting a brochure about this lodge from Milo Harpstead. That was my first contact with **Vennligfolk Lodge**!

For the last 16 years, Karen Trzebiatowski has been our Cultural Skills Director. Before Karen came along, our lodge did not participate in the Cultural Skills Program. Karen has been perfect for this role as she is one of the most talented gals I know!

Many of us have earned pins in the literature, knitting, cooking, genealogy, woodworking, and music programs that Karen spearheaded. Over the years, Karen hosted many knitting and hardanger gatherings in her lovely home in Nelsonville. Our lodge is better because of her leadership. Recently, Karen has felt the need to step back a bit from this job. I am happy to announce that Patti Rous is going to come along side of Karen and start doing some of the leadership duties in our Cultural Skills Program. Patti has completed several of the Cultural Skills units, and will be a wonderful leader. How thankful I am for leaders like Karen and Patti!

Although our lodge does not have regular lodge meetings in the summer, we still like to get together. Midsommer is scheduled for Thursday, June 22nd at the South New Hope Church grounds, starting at 5:00 PM. We are also having an August Pie & Dessert gathering on Wednesday, August 16th at Carl & Lynn Rasmussen's beautiful waterside backyard. More information will be coming on both gatherings.

Last month, Charlotte Hensler spent several hours in my kitchen teaching me how to bake bread. Look for a couple of photos from that day on page 6 in this Vennligblad.

Hilsen, Susan Morton

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

Mai

Ozz Hagen-4

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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. – 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	

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???



May 7 - Syttende Mai Lodge Celebration – at our regular meeting, learn a bit about this Norwegian National Holiday with a short presentation by Arno Morton and then enjoy some traditional foods eaten that day throughout Norway or also known as: hot dogs and ice cream! **Note this change in our regular meeting date to one week earlier because of Mother's Day**

May 13 Cultural Fest After three years, the "Food, Fun, & Music from Around the World" returns to Stevens Point Area Senior High. Plan to participate is this opportunity to celebrate and demonstrate our Scandinavian heritage plus raise funds for our lodge activities.



May 17 Syttende Mai – Remember to display your colors! And, remember too, the annual Syttende Mai Festive held in Stoughton, Wisconsin May 19-21. Join thousands of other folks 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 and, much more. More details at: www.stoughtonfestivals.com



June 22 - Midtsommer Celebration at the South New Hope Church grounds, starting at 5:00 PM. There will be a food sign-up at our May 7 meeting. **Directions:** 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:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthNewHope/>

August 16 Pie & Dessert at the Rasmussens

Like our "Desserts only" events held in summer 2021. Plan to come for dessert, good company, and "Chill on McDill"



7+ Lag Stevne will meet July 26-29, 2023 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Fargo ND. The event will include the 7 Lags of Agder, Hadeland, Landingslaget i Amerika, Numedalslågen, Ringerike-Drammen Districts, Sigdalslag, Teledagset, and Toten Lag. Experience genealogy first hand. For more details go to www.7lagstevne.com



Help Spread the Sunshine! Bea Berg, our Lodge Sunshine Coordinator wants everyone to note a change in her phone number to: [715-252-8853](tel:715-252-8853) and her email to: beaberg96@gmail.com. If you hear of a member who has been ill, had surgery, a death in their family or, something to celebrate, phone Bea. Takk and stay sunny!

Recent Vennligfolk Activities



Adam and Tracy Johnson's "Honeymoon in Norway" Feb 12



March 12, Larry Scheckel told us of a 1926 "Murder in Wisconsin"



"International Night" at St Paul's UMC
March 1, hosted by Vennligfolk



Oz & Lois Hagen show lefse technique



Carl Rasmussen presented a history and the steps in lefse making



Lynn Rasmussen demonstrates ricing made easy



Above: Susan Morton rolls a perfect lefse with help from Rita Johnson

Right: Ron Hensler displays lefse making finer points to Jen Haas



"Let's Make Lefse-Demonstration" April 9

Meet: Cathy & Kress Williamson

The first thing everyone should know about Cathy and Kress Williamson is they are “across the street neighbors” of Sue and Arno Morton. Arno has taught Kress the nuances of taking out garbage and recycling on Sunday nights!



Kathy with L-R grandkids Benta, Elin, Eleanor, William and Kress

Kress and Cathy met at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa in an accounting class and it was LOVE at first sight just like in the movies! Kress quickly realized a date to Happy Joes for an ice cream cone was the key to Cathy's heart. They married in Bellevue, Iowa in 1980.

Cathy is the oldest of four children and grew up in Bellevue, Iowa which is located on the banks of the Mississippi River. She participated in basketball and softball in high school---the only sports offered for girls. Yes, many of you are thinking, she did play six girl basketball and no one could cross the court's center line. In college she played basketball, softball (her senior year they were College State champions back when there were no divisions---the small colleges like Luther played Iowa State and Iowa), and volleyball (she was a member of the very first Luther volleyball team). Cathy is German descent but has loved following Icelandic and Norwegian family traditions of Kress' family.

Kress is the oldest of three children and grew up in Neenah, Wisconsin. He is proud to be a Neenah Rocket where he played football and basketball. After graduating from Luther College, Kress spent a year in Des Moines, Iowa where he earned his MBA from Drake. While there his love of sports found him involved with Drake's basketball program as a manager. Kress is half Icelandic and half Norwegian and grew up with many Scandinavian traditions.

In 2013, Kress' mother took Kress and Cathy along with Kress' siblings and their spouses to Iceland which was magnificent! They were able to meet 22 Icelandic relatives for dinner. It was truly a trip they will never forget—from the Blue Lagoon, to awe-inspiring geysers, volcanoes, glaciers, and waterfalls.

Cathy and Kress have lived in Plover since 1989. Previously they lived in Rochelle, Illinois (1980-1984) and Plymouth,

Indiana (1984-1989). They have two daughters, Carrie and Kelly, who were both born in Indiana and now live with their families in Appleton and Minnesota. Cathy and Kress are the proud grandparents to four grandchildren, Benta, Elin, Eleanor, and William (ages 4-9). If they are not in Plover they are visiting or babysitting the grandchildren or Up North at the cabin with them.

Cathy is a retired physical elementary education. She spent her last 11 years teaching at Washington Elementary School which is 100 yards from our SON meetings! Kress worked as an accounting manager for the majority of his 35-year career.



Cathy and Kress are retired and travel frequently (they are gone so much that their neighbors wanted to know if they were interested in selling their house)! They are avid sports fans and enjoy watching the Packers at Lambeau Field. They also can be found watching SPASH and the Pointers play. Cathy and Kress have a small cabin Up North on Plum Lake near Sayner, Wisconsin. They enjoy playing tennis, biking, and kayaking together. Cathy loves to water ski and cross-country ski on the lake. Kress is an avid walker and is sure to get his 5 miles in every day.

Cathy and Kress were invited to join SON by Arno and Sue. They enjoy the friendly people they have met and the diverse and interesting programs.

Syttende Mai – A Festival of Music!



When we think of Norway's national day, Syttende Mai, flags, children, parades and party food may come to mind, but there is another element that plays a huge role in the festivities, that of music. Of course, the national anthem, "Ja, Vi Elsker" will be belted out at some point, but there is much more depth to the day's soundtrack.

Starting bright and early on *grunnlovsdagen*, choirs and glee clubs will assemble to perform patriotic anthems, including "Sønner av Norge" (Sons of Norway), "Norges Skaal" (To Norway), both previously in use as national anthems. "Kongesangen" (The Royal Anthem) may also make an appearance, which shares the same melody as "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

In the weeks leading up to the big day, brass bands will march through the streets in preparation, a cacophony of notes and percussion bouncing off buildings. Syttende Mai parades are peppered with the sounds of youth bands performing both patriotic and popular songs.

Modern favorites with warm sentiments for Norway include the sedate "Mitt Lille Land," (My Little Country) by Maria Mena and "Fedrelandet" (The Fatherland) by Robin og Bugge- both available on YouTube.

Barnebunader

The Norwegian national costume, known as the bunad, is worn on special occasions such as Syttende Mai or at weddings. There are many different types of bunads that represent different locations in Norway and there are even details that reflect status or age.

It is common to receive or purchase a bunad in your mid-teen years that will last your entire life. So, what do younger children wear on these special occasions? Because children outgrow clothes so quickly, they will often have a festdrakt. These costumes are much less expensive than the traditional bunad and are more generic. They are also more readily available.



Unlike bunads, the festdrakt is not bound by location and is not as strictly tied to traditional bunad practices, though they can look quite similar to bunads. Festdrakter are also worn by some adults as they can be customized to personal preference. Whether in a bunad or festdrakt, Norway is well dressed for special occasions!

The World's Most Unique Rating System

By Jana Velo, Sons of Norway E-Post Blog 4/13/2023

North Americans are familiar with a 5-star rating system for movies, restaurants, hotels, tv shows, music and even books.



Norwegians on the other hand, have a unique rating system that sets them apart from the rest of the world - it is called *terningkast*, or dice roll. This term was first used in the newspaper *Verdens Gang* (VG) in 1952 by writer Arne Skouen. Later, use of the same scale became widespread in other genres such as radio, TV, books, theater and online.

Interestingly, dice, objects which in gambling represent total neutrality or randomized luck, denotes the exact opposite in this case: an opinionated critique.



In popular culture, the term is also used as commentary about anything — from a meal you just ate, to a celebrity's red-carpet outfit. You can say, "I'd give that dish a Dice 6," or simply, "Dice 4," the way you would remark "Five stars!" in English. #Terningkast6 is far and away the most common hashtag of the six ratings, like when people enthusiastically express, "10/10, would do again."



Here is the rating for each number on the dice scale:

Terningkast 1 – usedvanlig dårlig – exceptionally bad

Terningkast 2 – dårlig – bad

Terningkast 3 – skuffende – disappointing

Terningkast 4 – god – good

Terningkast 5 – meget god – very good

Terningkast 6 – usedvanlig vellykket – exceptionally successful



Charlotte's Lentil Soup

Charolette Hensler served this delicious Lentil Soup at our Vennligfolk meeting March 12. Now, try some at home.



Ingredients:

1 pound dry lentils
8 cups water
3 heaping TBS "Better than Boullion" vegetable base
2-3 TBS olive oil
3 heaping TBS chopped garlic
2 stalks chopped celery
1 medium onion diced
3 medium carrots sliced
48 ounce can diced tomatoes with juice
½ tsp black pepper
½ tsp cayenne pepper

Combine dry lentils, water and "Better than Boullion" in large soup pot. Cook until tender (about 20 minutes)

Saute in olive oil, the garlic, celery, onion, and carrots until tender/translucent

Add to soup pot along with tomatoes and peppers. Simmer for about 30 minutes (Adjust peppers for your taste)

Cultural Fest 2023 Sign-ups



FOOD:

Rosettes: 1. Lois Hagen 2. Kathy Clucas 3. _____

Sandbakels (2 Dozen): Judy Pesanka

Krumkaka (2 Dozens): Jane Gjevne

Kringla 16 slices, placed in baggies: 1. Susan Morton

2. Lynn Rasmussen 3. Diane Beversdorf

Swedish Coffee Bread: 1. Rita Johnson

2. Charlotte Hensler 3. Louise Lang

Lefse 20 rounds of pre-made:

1. Carl & Lynn Rasmussen (50 rounds)

2. Ron & Char Hensler (30 rounds)

3. _____

Norwegian Almond Cake: 1. Patti Rous 2. Karen Clifford

Fudge: 1. Lois Hagen 2. Sherry Lieber

WORK SCHEDULE:

9 – 1:00 1. Carl Rasmussen 2. Lynn Rasmussen

10 – 1:00 1. Patti Rous 2. Ron Hensler 3. Jan Flatoff

12 – 3:00 1. Jane Gjevne 2. Jen Haas

3. Cindy Kluck & Karlee

1 – 4:00 1. Ron Hensler 2. Judy Pesanka

3 – 5:00 (clean up) 1. Lois Hagen 2. _____

4 – 5:00 (take down) 1. Mark Hansen

All Day: Arno & Susan Morton



Last month, Charlotte Hensler spent several hours in my kitchen teaching me how to bake bread. Well, Charlotte was a great teacher! By the time she left, I had learned how to make wheat dinner rolls, and Louise Lang's Swedish coffee bread!

Susan Morton

a little in English... He's Got It All

According to Wikipedia, "Erling Braut Haaland is a Norwegian professional footballer who plays as a striker for the Premier League club, Manchester City, and the Norway national team. Considered one of the best players in the world, he is known for his speed, strength, and "finishing inside the box."

Erling Braut Haaland is officially a Manchester City player. The club confirmed the signing on Monday [June 13, 2022]. It was done on the same date as when his father Alfie Haaland signed 22 years ago.

Many football clubs were after Erling Braut Haaland. But in the end, it was the English Manchester City who drew the longest straw.

And so, one of the summer's most anticipated signings is upon us. It already became clear on May 10th that the English club had bought him. But an official confirmation took longer.

"This is a proud day for me and my family," says Haaland on the club's website.

Haaland signed a contract that lasts until 2027.

"I have always watched City and have loved doing so in recent seasons. You can't help but admire their style of play. It is exciting, and they create many chances. It's perfect for a player like me," says Haaland.

Haaland did not want to talk about the transfer until it was clear.

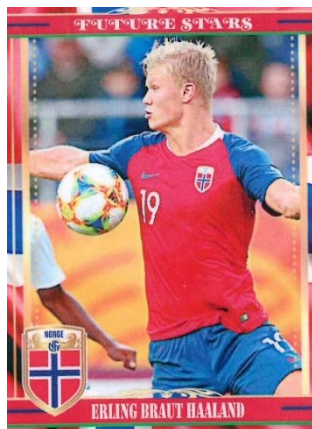
Txiki Begiristain says that Haaland has everything they want in a striker.

"And we are sure that he will excel in this squad and this system," he says. Begiristain is sporting director for City.

Haaland scored his 20th goal for Norway on Sunday. That means he has scored 42 goals in 39 games this season. This applies to all tournaments. Of these, 10 were scored in nine matches with the national team.

Many expect Haaland to score a lot for City. They won the league this season.

"I want to score goals, win trophies and improve as a footballer. And I'm sure I can do it here. This is a good transition for me. And I can't wait to get started," says Haaland.

litt på norsk... Han har alt

Erling Braut Haaland er offisielt Manchester City-spiller. Klubben bekreftet signeringen mandag [13.06.2022]. Det ble gjort på samme dato som da faren Alfie Haaland signerte for 22 år siden.

Mange fotballklubber har jaktet på Erling Braut Haaland. Men til slutt var det engelske Manchester City som trakk det lengste strået.

Dermed er en av sommerens mest ventede signeringer klare. Det ble allerede klart 10. mai at den engelske klubben hadde kjøpt han. Men en offisiell bekreftelse tok lengre tid.

– Dette er en stolt dag for meg og familien, sier Haaland til klubbens nettside.

Haaland har signert en kontrakt som varer fram til 2027.

– Jeg har alltid sett på City og har elsket å gjøre det de siste sesongene. Du kan ikke annet enn å beundre spillestilen deres. Den er spennende, og de skaper mange sjanser. Det er perfekt for en spiller som meg, sier Haaland.

Haaland har ikke ønsket å snakke om overgangen før det ble klart.

Txiki Begiristain sier at Haaland har alt de ønsker i en spiss.

– Og vi er sikre på at han vil utmerke seg i denne troppen og dette systemet, sier han. Begiristain er sportsdirektør for City.

Haaland skåret sitt 20. mål for Norge søndag. Det betyr at han har skåret 42 mål på 39 kamper denne sesongen. Det gjelder alle turneringer. Av disse har 10 kommet på ni kamper med landslaget.

Mange forventer at Haaland skal skåre mye for City. De vant ligaen denne sesongen.

– Jeg ønsker å skåre mål, vinne trofeer og forbedre meg som fotballspiller. Og jeg er sikker på at jeg kan gjøre det her. Dette er en bra overgang for meg. Og jeg kan ikke vente med å komme i gang, sier Haaland.



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

May 7 "Syttende Mai"
Arno Morton, presenter
May 13 -Cultural Fest
Lodge Lefse Making Activity



Visited Vennligfolk on Facebook Lately?

It can be a long time between newsletters! Stay current with Vennligfolk member posts and photos. Join in the fun. Search for **@sofnvennligfolk**; or, **SOFN #5-627 Vennligfolk Lodge** on Facebook. Click "Like" and "Follow." If you need help, Lodge member Kathy Clucas is willing to help you to get going. Grab a bite!

Amazing, Incredible Experiences... that's Sons of Norway Membership!

Larry Scheckel, our March 12 speaker, and wife, Ann display Larry's many books available for purchase



If you would like to make a purchase, ten different titles can be found on Amazon.com. Just search for "Larry Scheckel."

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