

Med Vennlig Hilsen

With Friendly Greetings

Sons of Norway - Grønnavik Lodge 5-632 - Green Bay, WI

Vol 30—No. 3—May/June 2024

Kalender

Gratulerer med dagen!

May

9—Lost Sock Memorial Day
21—Syttende Mai Celebration
Seating at 6pm at the Village
Grille, 801 Hoffman Road
29—National Paperclip Day

June

18—Cultural meeting, 6:30
Trinity Lutheran
19—Juneteenth
20—Summer Solstice
21—Deadline for Newsletter

May

2 – Mollie Bergsbaken
3 – Bob Olson
11 – Lilianna Robshaw*
19 – Roy Jilburg
21 – Gerald Tallackson
23 – Jola Gray
29 – Sue Hepp
29 – Birgit Ruotsala
29 – Scott Nævestad
31 – Jill Larson

June

2 – John Stevenson
3 – Ruby Freitag*
4 – Steve Christenson
13 – Barb Nelson
13 – Sharon Rentmeester
13 – William Danek*
20 – Karen DeGroot
20 – Bonnie Vastag
21 – Scott Brunner
21 – Martin Johansen
23 – Gabriel Glesner*
28 – Donald Overby

Volunteer pins:

Pins will be available at the sign in table. The pins are \$3 each. They are in recognition of the members who help with set up, clean up, making food for meetings, and the myriad of ways volunteers have helped.

Anniversary Recognition

This year we recognize Phyllis Fitzgerald and Patricia Larson-Rynning for 10 years of membership. Congratulations to both!

Fra Medlemsdirektør: Jeri Stiles

Vet du? It's never too late to learn! Did you know there are tons of interesting things on the Sons of Norway website? Including language lessons! Check it out!	Useful phrases	Pronunciation	English
	Unnskyld!	oohn-sheell	Excuse me / sorry!
	Hjelp!	jehlp	Help!
	Vær så god!	vaer soh goo	Please (as in "please help yourself")
	Takk for nå.	takk for noh	Thank you for this time together.
	God sommer!	goo sohm-mer	Have a nice summer!
	God tur!	goo tewhr	Have a nice trip!

Fra vår president: M-m-m-m! I'm still drooling,
Eileen Larson Below just thinking about the open
face sandwiches at the April
lodge meeting. Mollie, with help from Dawn and Karen V,
certainly outdid herself with this program. (shown on right)
Her presentation, and the sandwiches, were nothing short
of excellent. I'm still impressed that, at the end of the even-
ing, every bite was gone, yet no one in attendance missed
out on sampling each creation. It's almost as if she had
some *intervention*. And let's not forget Matt, in his new (and
hopefully temporary) role as *Holder-of-the-Microphone*.
Great job, everybody!



Coming up: Our Syttende Mai meeting will be at the Village Grille in Allouez, 801 Hoffman Road on Tuesday, May 21.

We'll be ordering off the menu, and paying for our own meals. Then test your Knorske Knowledge, at our second annual Trivia Contest.

Our 30th Anniversary meeting will be June 18th at Trinity. More details are in the works.

On Saturday June 29, Grønnavik and Norse Valley Lodge of Appleton will be co-sponsoring a very special event. Fresh from his presentations at the Sons of Norway convention in Indianapolis, Jorn Lengseth will be sharing his insights into the Umi Sami culture at the Community Church of Appleton 3701 N Gillett Street at 1:00 pm. I'll be sending out more details about this event, too.



See you at the Village Grille!

Regards,
Eileen Below

Ole and Lena got married. On their honeymoon trip they were nearing Minneapolis when Ole put his hand on Lena's knee. Giggling, Lena said, "Ole, you can go a little further now if you want to"...so Ole drove to Duluth.

Grunnlovsdagens Historie

This year, Norway celebrates 210 years since their Constitution was signed. Norway declared independence as a kingdom with the constitution that was signed 17 May in 1814. The constitution was an attempt to avoid being ceased by Sweden after the defeat of Denmark-Norway in the Napoleonic Wars. The plan did not succeed and in August 1814 the Union between Sweden and Norway was a fact. However, the 17 May continued to be celebrated sporadically in various parts of the country. The Union with Sweden was dissolved in 1905 and Prince Carl of Denmark was chosen to be King of an independent Norway, under the name Haakon VII.

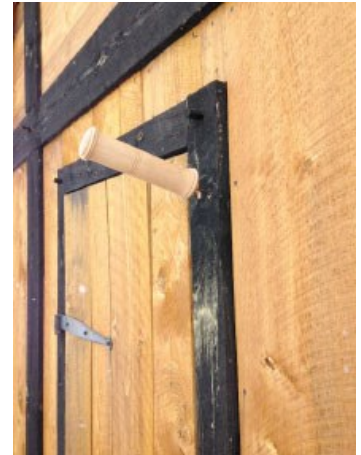




Figure 1. The Budstikke. This Budstikke was made by Bayard the Turner in the SCA, from a Medieval Re-enactment Group.

The Budstikke

The Budstikke was used since the Viking Age to send messages or rally people in rural areas. Sometimes messages were marks or runes on wood, other times the budstikke was hollowed and a message placed inside. The Budstikke was passed from farm to farm. If people were not home, the budstikke would be jammed into the door or into the door jam. When the people arrived home they would pass the budstikke onto the next farm.



In Viking times, about 950 AD, the Norwegian king Haakon the Good used the Budstikke to call people to defend the land. Besides the rural areas of Norway, budstikker were used throughout Scandinavia, and in Scotland and the Faroe Islands. Recently the word Budstikke has been used as a name for newspapers and newsletters. (Ed note: I'm glad I don't have to deliver the newsletter this way!!)

Author unknown, excerpt taken from https://sonsofnorway5.com/programs/cultural_corner.php



A Bright Midsummer's Eve

The height of summer, June 24, marks the longest, brightest day of the year for the Land of the Midnight Sun, Norway. After long dark winters, this time is a joyous celebration of a much-awaited summer.

Different versions of this day are celebrated throughout the Northern Hemisphere with rituals dating back to Pagan times. Norway celebrates *Sankthansaften*, St. John's Eve, each June 23, the eve before the longest day of the year. It is also called *Jonsok*, which translates to John's wake, referring to St. John the Baptist's birth.

Celebrations have and will continue to evolve over time. In Norway, festivities typically occur on June 23 and give thanks to the bright sun and the sweet-smelling flowers in bloom. Family and friends grill sausages and light bonfires bigger than on any other day of the year. Bonfires are historically assumed to protect from evil spirits and trolls lurking in the forests. *Rommegrøt* is a favorite meal on this day steeped with melted butter, sugar and cinnamon.

Once the bonfires die down and the sun begins to set, people understand that the cycle must go round. Norwegians live with polar opposite seasons every year and, therefore take full advantage of every summer, enjoying the extended company of the sun on *Sankthansaften*.





Grønnavik Lodge

Green Bay, WI

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Grønnavik Lodge Meetings are usually the third Tuesday of the month at Trinity Lutheran Church, 330 S. Broadway, Green Bay, WI



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Gronnavik Lodge Green Bay



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Russ

You know Syttende Mai as the celebration of Norway's independence, but did you know that it also signifies the end of Russ? The Norwegian tradition known as "Russ" is a rite of passage for high school students who are about to complete their final exams. From April to the 17th of May, the graduating students from upper secondary schools are Russ, where they celebrate that they finish 13 years of school. You can recognize them by their red or blue overalls or pants, covered in letters, badges and patches.

The Russ tradition involves a series of activities and challenges, such as driving around in specially decorated vans or buses, participating in pranks and dares, and attending parties and concerts. They will all have personal cards "russekort" that they hand out to their friends family and the kids, even if they do not always have kid-friendly content.

You can often hear the russbuses driving around the city playing loud music, it is called "rulle". The Russ tradition is a unique, both cherished and highly discussed aspect of Norwegian culture that has been celebrated for over a century.

Despite its reputation for rowdiness and excess, the Russ tradition is also a way for young people to bond with their classmates and create lasting memories before they move on to the next phase of their lives.