



Norse Valley Lodge 5-491 Nytt Notes May 2024

One of my favorite months for me and our ancestors, May. The month of Norwegian Independence from Denmark.

Syttende Mai, also known as Grunnlovsdagen, is Norway's Constitution Day.

On May 17, 1814, the Constitution of Norway was signed at Eidsvoll. This event marked a crucial moment in Norwegian history. The constitution declared Norway to be an independent kingdom, aiming to prevent it from being ceded and subservient to Sweden after Denmark–Norway's defeat in the Napoleonic Wars. The signing of the constitution established a union between Sweden and Norway as two distinct countries. This put Norway into a union with Sweden, which lasted for almost a century before its peaceful 1905 dissolution.

The celebration of this day began spontaneously among students and others in Norway shortly after the constitutional signing on May 17, 1814.

However, during the early 1820s, King Charles XIV John initially banned the celebrations, viewing them as a form of protest against the union. His attitude changed after the Battle of the Square in 1829, which led to commotion and forced the king to allow commemorations on May 17. It wasn't until 1833 that public addresses were officially held, with the first celebration near the monument of former government minister Christian Krohg.

After 1864, the day gained more prominence when the first children's parade took place in Christiania (now Oslo). The tradition of dressing in special outfits called bunads, eating hot dogs, waffles, and ice cream, and playing playground games became an integral part of the celebration. The day is a joyful occasion for Norwegians, who come together for parades, speeches, and memorialization.

So, whether you call it Syttende Mai, Grunnlovsdagen, or National Day, May 17th is a day of pride and celebration in Norway, commemorating the signing of their constitution and the end of centuries of Danish rule.

This year, we will have 3 of our Lodge members in Oslo on May 17th to take in the festivities. I can't wait to hear their stories and see their pictures!!!

In case you missed it

On April 20th, we had 3 volunteers from the Lodge demonstrate how to make krumkake with lignonberries, lapskaus (stew), and vafler (waffles). Attendees sampled all the treats again and again and again. They were delicious and nobody left the meeting hungry.

Thanks to Mitch, Carol, and Judy with food preparation, instruction, and recipes.



Hungary Lodge attendees watching the cooks!



Carol demonstrating the rolling of Krumkake



Mitch finishing another golden brown Vafler



Carol about to place a dab of batter on her patterned Krumkake Maker



Lois stirring the crock pot of potatoes, carrots, and roasted meat of her lapskaus.

May 19th – Syttende Mai Picnic at Noon (Sunday)

Join us in celebrating Norway Constitution Day with a Sunday afternoon picnic. We have reserved the shelter at Derks Park on the southeast side of Appleton from Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Derks Park is adjacent to Kensington Drive between College Avenue and Calumet Street on Guyette Drive. Look for the Norwegian flags adorning the park shelter.

Join us for a no cost to you meal and program.
Lefse, hot dogs, and ice cream will be provided.

Please bring a side dish to share.

Come learn about Syttende Mai and play outdoor games (including Kubb) and don't miss out on the door prizes.

Extended families are welcome as well.

Mark this Special Program on your calendar!

The Fox Cities and Green Bay Sons of Norway lodges will be jointly hosting a presentation by **Jorn Magnus Rivojen Langseth on Saturday June 29th at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Church of Appleton, located at 3701 North Gillett Street in Appleton.**

Jorn Lengseth is well-known for his drums and other artistic pieces connected with the Ume Sami culture in Northern Norway as well as interesting presentations advocating for Sami language preservation and describing Sami culture and history. He will give presentations on Sami culture, specifically regarding the significance of Sami drums. The presentations will include slides of his drums and other works of art ranging in size from large outdoor installations to small, exquisite knives.

Langseth's passion about his Ume Sami heritage fuels his creativity and is expressed in his works to preserve the symbols, language, art, food — every aspect of the Sami culture. He shares his knowledge with others through art shows, personal appearances, and at the Umesamisk ressursenteer in Norway.

His art has been featured in shows throughout Norway and in other parts of the world. Some of Langseth's art will be on display at Vesterheim Norwegian-American museum in Decorah, Iowa during the month of May 2024.

Rivojen Art can be found on-line for examples of Langseth's work.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Beginning at 11:30 a.m. and ending at 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday May 29th, we are looking for Norse Valley members to volunteer at Feeding America on the north side of Appleton to pack food for the less fortunate. Please contact Norse Valley member Linda Hash (lhash@new.rr.com), our volunteer coordinator, if you would like to help out.

On Wednesday July 10th, we invite our Norse Valley Lodge members for a day of volunteering at the Norwegian American Genealogical Center near the state capitol building in Madison. Some outdoor grounds clean-up and indoor filing are the two projects we are usually tasked with. We usually carpool down and some folks stay for the nearby Concerts on the Capitol Square by the Wisconsin

Chamber Orchestra at 7:00 p.m. with feature artists Bill Miller on flute and Jane Story on Violin. A piece by Bergen, Norway's own Edvard Grieg will be featured.

By July 1st, please contact Corey Olson at clobadger87@gmail.com or (920) 858-7642 if you are interested in helping out on July 10th. I know I will help out again this year. It's a fun, educational, and worthwhile day. I hope you can join us and volunteer.

Here's an event coming up in Scandinavia that might be interesting...

Mead Meander

Friday, May 17 4:00 pm through the evening

Scandinavia, WI

From their FaceBook posting:

Join us in celebrating Syttende Mai with a fun-filled evening of mead tasting, a.k.a. honey wine, and exploration at participating businesses in Scandinavia, Wisconsin.

Nine venues, 8 in downtown Scandinavia, serving tastes of various Midwest-made mead in a commemorative Mead Meander glass.

Registration is required. Cost is \$30. More info is on their FaceBook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/741555508155841>

Stoughton, Wisconsin also has Syttende Mai activities on May 17th and 18th.

A Final word of how Syttende Mai is celebrated in Norway...

All over Norway, children's parades with an abundance of flags form the central elements of the celebration. Each elementary school district arranges its own parade with marching bands between schools. The parade takes the children through the community, often making stops at homes of senior citizens, war memorials, etc. The longest parade is in Oslo, where some 100,000 people come to participate in the main festivities. The massive Oslo parade includes some 100 schools, marching bands, and passes the royal palace where the royal family greets the people from the main balcony.

Typically a school's children parade will consist of some senior school children carrying the school's official banner, followed by a handful of other older children carrying full size Norwegian flags, and the school's marching band. After the band the rest of the school children follow with hand sized flags, often with the junior forms first, and often behind self made banners for each form or even individual class. Nearby kindergartens may also have been invited to join in. As the parade passes, bystanders often join in behind the official parade, and follow the parade back to the school. All parades begin or end with speeches. Both adults and older children are invited to speak.

Here's hoping you have a wonderful Syttende Mai over the May 17th weekend!

Be sure to take a look at our Facebook page ([norsevalleylodge](https://www.facebook.com/norsevalleylodge)) and **encourage friends and family to like it**. We also have information about our Lodge on a website that can be found at www.norsevalley.org. Got a question? Send an email to norsevalley@gmail.com. If you have any questions or concerns about lodge activities, please contact Judy Ghastin at judy62ghastin@gmail.com or 920-450-3584.