

Sons of Norway

Polar Star Lodge 5-472

Meetings on the first Sunday of the month – Potluck at 1:30 p.m.
St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Douglas Road, Montgomery, IL

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President's Message



President Ken leading the search for spring flowers on the Johnson Mound Walk

Hilsen Polar Star!

April Showers have brought us May flowers!
We are so thankful to be able to be “out and about” face to face. Thanks to my officers who covered for Barb and I at the May meeting. It looks like our Syttendemai event was fun and filled with Norwegian pride.

Your President
Ken Johnson



Nancy Andersen
provides Polar Star with
a lesson on the importance of
the 17th of May!

Upcoming Events

POLAR STAR PIKNIK

at the
Norsk Museum
Opening

June 6, 2021

See page 3 for details

Polar Star August Event

August 1, 2020

St. Olaf Lutheran church
1:30

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Polar Star Newsletter Deadline
Will be the 14th of every month.
Please submit all articles to Barb Johnson at
barbjjohnsonb@aol.com
Follow us on facebook @
Sons of Norway – Polar Star Lodge

Syttende Mai 2021



Syttende mai looked a little different this year, but thankfully Norwegians were able to celebrate together in both Norway and America. Many people think that this special Holiday in Norway celebrates Norwegian independence, but in reality, Norway did not become an independent nation until 1905.

“Norwegian Constitution Day” is the official National Day of Norway, celebrated on the 17th (syttende) of May (mai). Among Norwegians, the day is referred to simply as “Syttende Mai” or Grunnlovsdagen (The Constitution Day).

The Constitution of Norway was signed at Eidsvoll, Norway on May 17, 1814 following the Treaty of Kiel that ended the Napoleonic war but also ceded Norway to the King of Sweden. Norwegians wanted independence so they wrote their own constitution and declared Norway as an independent nation even though it continued to be ruled by Sweden. The Swedes were not happy with any celebration that commemorated the signing of the document. For a few years in the 1820s, King Carl Johan of Sweden even forbade the celebrations. The celebration of Constitution Day in Norway began spontaneously as a student led protest in Christiania (Oslo) that would be later called the Battle of the Square in 1829. It was not until 1836 that anyone ventured to hold a public address on behalf of the day. That year, an official celebration was initiated by the monument of the late politician Christian Krogh, known to have stopped the king from gaining too much personal power. In 1905, Norway separated from Sweden peacefully and became a truly independent country. By historical coincidence, World War II ended when the occupying German forces surrendered in Norway on May 8, 1945, just nine days before that year’s Constitution Day. Even if the Liberation Day is an official flag day in Norway, the day is not broadly celebrated. Instead, a new and broader meaning has been added to the celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day on May 17.

POLAR STAR earns Sports Medals



Sports Director, Jerri Lynn, awards certificates and medals to Polar Star walkers.



Floyd Anderson displays his Virtual Walk to Norway certificate and pin



Vi Skogen earns her gold gangmerke medal

Polar Star Celebrating Syttendemai 2021



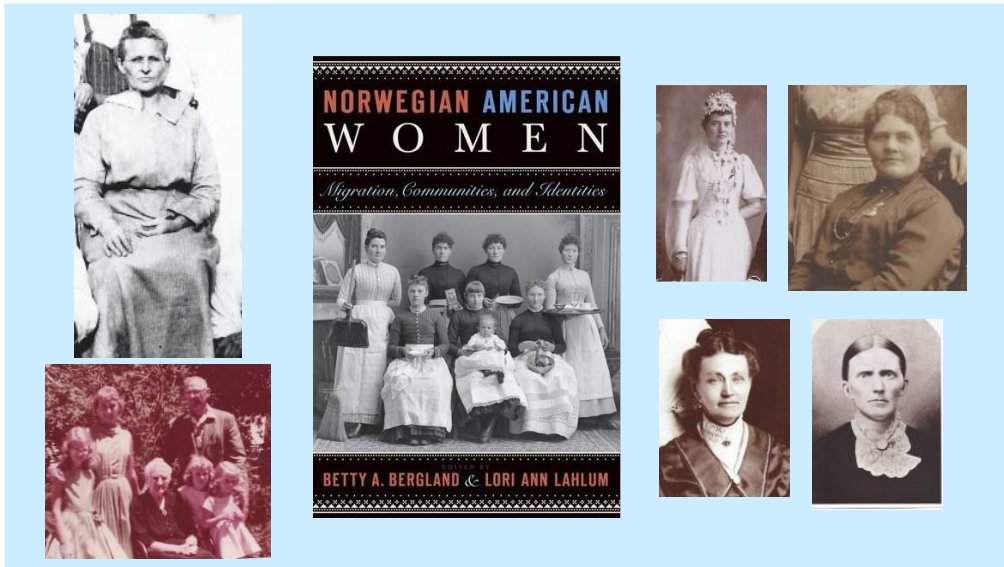
POLAR STAR NORSK MUSEUM PIKNIK Sunday, June 6, 2021 1:30 p.m.



The Norsk Museum will open for visitors for the 2021 season the first weekend in June. To celebrate the return of on-site visitors, Polar Star will gather for a picnic on the Museum grounds on Sunday, June 6 at our regular meeting time of 1:30. Pack your own lunches, drinks, and lawn chairs and enjoy visiting with Museum visitors as we explore the changes that have been made during our absence. Bring your Viking Kubb games and any other outdoor game favorites. It's been a long time since Polar Star has been challenged for our Kubb title so we could probably use a little practice to stay in game-ready form!!

POLAR STAR CULTURE CORNER

by Barb Johnson



My sister, Connie Kross (our Zone 5 Director), and I enjoyed participating in the District 5 Norwegian American History sixteen week Zoom Class. As part of this class, Connie and I researched Norwegian American Women in Illinois and the contributions that immigrant women made in their communities. We presented our research project to the group on May 8th. This presentation is now available for all to listen to on the link below. We hope you enjoy it!

Norwegian-American Women - by Barb Johnson (Polar Star - Montgomery IL),
Connie Kross (Cleng Peerson - Norway IL) and Connie Weimer (Koshkonong
Prairie Historical Society) (50:46)

<https://www.screencast.com/t/lrGePpDLKLBE>

We highly recommend the books listed below that we used for our research.



Ingers Språkkrigere

The Language warriors continue to study and meet every week under the direction of Inger Langsholt, our native speaker instructor. We have completed "The Mystery of Nils" Part I and will begin a new series in June. Now, would be a good time to become a Språkkrigere. Contact Barb at barbjohnsonb@aol.com for more details.



Ingers Språkkrigere celebrating Syttendemai in 2019

Polar Star Walks Johnson Mound on April 15, 2021



Editor's Note: My mom, Phyllis Benson, is a 2nd generation Norwegian American child who grew up in rural Dekalb County Illinois and just turned 100. This is the article that I wrote about her life. It appeared in her local newspaper on 5/12/21



Phyllis Knutson Benson turned 100 on May 13th

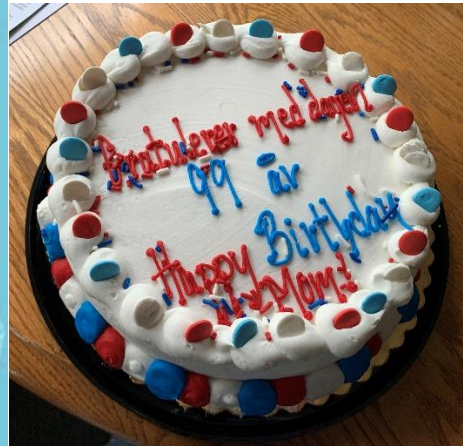
Phyllis Benson of Sandwich, Illinois celebrated her 100th birthday on May 13th 2021. She was born on Friday, the 13 of May, 1921, in the Waterman Illinois Hospital, the daughter of Andrew Bernie Knutson and Pearl Emily Keene . Phyllis married Russel J. Benson on May 17, 1942 and they were married for sixty-two years. She has three daughters; Connie (Chuck) Kross of Sandwich, Barb (Ken) Johnson of Yorkville, and Joni (Al) Koehler) of Sandwich; eight grandchildren; Christy (Tim) Cordt, Corey (Greg) Zabukover, Greg (Candy) Johnson, T.J. (Andrea) Johnson, Matthew Johnson, Andrew (Erika) Koehler, Jake (Meagan) Koehler, Ben (Monique) Johnson and 12 Great Grandchildren. Phyllis Benson is a career educator who attended and taught in a room school house. She earned teaching degrees from Northern Illinois University and Aurora University and taught third grade in Sandwich at Haskin and Prairie View Schools. Phyllis is a life-long learner and genealogist who wrote her autobiography entitled, *From Horse and Buggy to the Moon*, which chronicles her life as a child growing up on a farm in rural America, her life during the depression, WWII and her experiences witnessing the space age as the wife of a member of the Titan Missile Project. She is a member of the Cleng Peerson Sons of Norway Lodge, General John Stark Daughters of the American Revolution Lodge, and the Fox Valley Community Center where she is an avid Bridge player. She celebrated her first century of life with her family and friends at the Fox Valley Community Center on May 16th 2021.



Thanks Polar Star Friends!

Gratulerer med dagen (Happy Birthday)

Polar Star Members!



Mai 15-31

- 20. Blake Chaussey**
- 30. Ellen Jensen**

June 1-14

- 3. Nilslee Kreppert**
- 4. Nels Johnson**
- 7. Caden Carnes**
- 10. Gerald Rucks**

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POLAR STAR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 6: Norsk Museum Picnic

AUGUST 1 : Polar Star Indoor Picnic

SEPTEMBER 12 - VASA PARK Scandinavian Fest cancelled for 2020

OCTOBER 3 - PROGRAM TBA

NOVEMBER 7 - Høstfest ??? TBD

DECEMBER 5 - JULETREFEST



Save your stamps!