



Fosselyngen Lodge No. 5-082, Sons of Norway

PO Box 20957, Milwaukee, WI 53220

Volume 48 No. 2

#### FOSSELYNGEN LODGE - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 13 Monday Soc/Cult Meeting at Mt. Hope Lutheran Church in West Allis.

Socialize at 5:30 PM. Dinner at 6 PM. Meeting at about 6:45 PM.

Program: A Long Time Pen Pal Relationship Leads to an Extended

Adventure in Norway.

(See full details of meeting on Page 3.)

Pettit tour re-scheduled. (See President's message on Page 2.) 16 Thurs., 1PM

**APRIL** 10 Monday Soc/Cult Meeting at Mt. Hope Lutheran Church in West Allis.

Socialize at 5:30 PM. Dinner at 6 PM. Meeting at about 6:45 PM.

**Program: The Family of Lodge Member Mark Bjorgo Donates** 

**Immigration Items to Norway** 

(See full details of meeting on Page 3.)

Soc/Cult Meeting at Mt. Hope Lutheran Church in West Allis. MAY Monday

Program: Liv Marit Haakonstad, Author of A Guide to Norwegian

Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration

(See Page 3 for summary information about the guest speaker, and see the May/June 2023 Runespeak for full details of meeting.)

\*Note: The May 8th date of our May lodge meeting is changed from the original date listed in the "Schedule for Fosselyngen Meetings for

2023" in the January/February 2023 Runespeak.

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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

(mars og april 2023)

Greetings to All,

The Barnebirkie was held February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. We contributed \$100 towards the cookie tent again this year as Sons of Norway is a proud sponsor.

Please make note that our May meeting date is changed to May 8<sup>th</sup> to accommodate our speaker.

The Pettit National Ice Center tour has been postponed to Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 1PM due to the expected snow storm in February. This tour will be guided by our member Gale Tanger. Please let Dennis Dale know if you can attend this free event. The tour will not require a lot of walking. Contact Dennis at 414-771-3470 or <a href="mailto:ddale.wi@yahoo.com">ddale.wi@yahoo.com</a>.

Your Officers have been working on year end financials, audit and budget for 2023.

Daryl Wunrow has some exciting programs coming up. Please read the newsletter for all the details.

Thank you.

Sue Roedel 414-516-8312 sjroedel@gmail.com

#### INTRODUCING YOUR NORWEGIAN/AMERICAN ANCESTOR

Daryl Wunrow would like to have more members to volunteer for "Introducing Your Norwegian/American Ancestor" at future lodge meetings. Time slots are available for the August, September and October 2023 lodge meetings at Mt. Hope.

If you are interested, please contact Daryl at <a href="mailto:dmwunrow@gmail.com">dmwunrow@gmail.com</a> or phone him at 414-460-5285.

#### **FOSSELYNGEN 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.

# MONDAY, MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

### **Social/Cultural Meeting**

At Mt. Hope Lutheran Church In West Allis (8633 W. Becher Street)

#### (Facemasks are optional.)

Socialize at 5:30 PM. (Someone will be at the doors from 5:15 until 6:00. After that, you must call the cell phone number posted on the door for someone to let you in.)

Dinner at 6 PM. Menu: Chili, corn bread and salad

Meeting starts at about 6:45 PM.

#### Program: A Long Time Pen Pal Relationship Leads to an Extended Adventure in Norway

Dave and Lynne Loosen, Mt. Hope neighbors, recently spent three and a half weeks in Norway. Lynne has a third cousin, Liv, who started to communicate with her as a pen pal over sixty years ago. Lynne and Dave have had several opportunities to travel to Norway. After their latest trip, Lynne and Dave have developed a presentation of photos and memories from their 2022 adventure that took them from Haugesund to Tromso. You will see Bergen, sail on the Hurtigruten, fjords and waterfalls, the Arctic Circle, a Viking Museum, Lofoten, and the small community of Hemnesberget.

# MONDAY, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

### Social/Cultural Meeting

At Mt. Hope Lutheran Church In West Allis (8633 W. Becher Street)

#### (Facemasks are optional.)

Socialize at 5:30 PM. (Someone will be at the doors from 5:15 until 6:00. After that, you must call the cell phone number posted on the door for someone to let you in.)

Dinner at 6 PM. Menu: Roast beef and mashed potatoes, vegetable

Meeting starts at about 6:45 PM.

#### **Program:** A Family Donates Immigration Items to Norway

Fosselyngen Lodge member Mark Bjorgo will share with us his family's 2022 adventure to Norway. His family made the trip to donate two items of their ancestors to the Norwegian Emigration Museum in Ottestad, Norway. Mark's immigrant ancestors brought the items when they emigrated to America from Valdres, Norway in 1875.

# Coming on Monday, \*May 8th, 2023 at Mt. Hope

# Guest Speaker: Liv Marit Haakonstad, Author of A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration (2022)

We have a very special program for our May meeting. Liv Marit Haakonstad, a Norwegian genealogist and author, will speak about her recent book, *A Guide to Norwegian Genealogy, Emigration, and Transmigration*, published in 2022. She will speak about her new book, and copies will be available for purchase.

See the May/June 2023 *Runespeak* for full details of meeting and more info about Liv Marit Haakonstad.

\*Note: The May 8<sup>th</sup> date of our May lodge meeting is changed from the original date listed in the "Schedule for Fosselyngen Meetings for 2023" in the January/February 2023 *Runespeak*.

#### **MERCY MAT PROJECT**

As we have done for the past few meetings, we will again meet at 3:00PM prior to the March 13<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup> meetings to cut plastic bags for our Mercy Mat project. Please bring a scissors with you.

Arlette Johnson

#### FREE SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTOR PLATES - MARCH MEETING

An individual donated Scandinavian blue collector plates which we will bring to the March meeting. These plates are free for the taking.

Gretchen Bjork and Arlette Johnson

#### **BUTIKK INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE – APRIL AND MAY MEETINGS**

To help reduce the remaining Butikk inventory, we will be bringing select merchandise to the April and May meetings for you to purchase. CASH OR CHECK ONLY.

Gretchen Bjork and Arlette Johnson

#### SONS OF NORWAY VOLUNTEER PIN AWARDS

At the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, we would like to recognize the following individuals who volunteered at Holiday Folk Fair this past November: Mary Reykdal, Mary Taylor, Karen Smeiska, Dennis Dale, Sheila Kershek, Rebecca Taalbi, Hanne and Peter Bonovich, Bonnie and Daryl Wunrow, David Christianson, Janet Dallmann and Kirstin Dallman. We hope you will be attending the meeting so we can present you with your pin.

Arlette Johnson



# 2023 Scandinavian Fest September 30, 2023

#### The 30th annual indoor SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL

to be held at:
Waukesha County Expo Center
W1000 Northview Rd, Waukesha, WI
September 30, 2023, Hours 10 AM – 6 PM

For more information, go to https://www.nordiccouncil.com

#### **Hev Snow Birds!**

Those of you who move from one place to another as the seasons change are asked to contact Sons of Norway International headquarters **each time you move.** Please call 800-945-8851 to notify them so you continue receiving your *Viking* and other mailings the home office may send out.





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 <u>notify Arlette Johnson when a</u> <u>member of the Lodge passes away</u>, 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.

## LANGUAGE CLASSES

Norwegian language classes coming again in September 2023.

#### **MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM**

March 24-July 23, 2023

# Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890–1980

Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890–1980 is the first exhibition to explore the extensive design exchanges between the United States and Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Iceland during the 20th century. The exhibition proposes an alternative to the dominant narrative that cites Germany and central Europe as the primary influences of modern American design, presenting new scholarship on the crucial impact the Scandinavian countries and America had on one another's material culture. From this perspective, Scandinavian Design investigates timely themes such as the contributions of immigrants to their adopted societies, the importance of international exchange, the role of cultural myths, and designing for sustainability and accessibility.

Spanning from the arrival of Nordic immigrants to the U.S. in the late 19th century through the environmentally and socially conscious design movements of the 1960s and 1970s, the exhibition showcases more than 180 objects, including furniture, textiles, drawings, ceramics, jewelry, glass, and product designs that reflect the far-reaching effects of the Scandinavian and American cultural exchange. Highlights of the presentation include Paulding Farnham's *Viking Punch Bowl* (ca. 1893) for Tiffany & Co. and a study for the woven hanging *Festival of the May Queen* (1932) by Eliel Saarinen and Loja Saarinen, which documents motifs most recently seen in the 2019 film *Midsommar*.

Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890–1980 is co-organized by the Milwaukee Art Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in collaboration with the Nationalmuseum Sweden and the Nasjonalmuseet in Norway.

# SONS OF NORWAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT MASSE MORO NORWEGIAN HERITAGE YOUTH CAMP

#### SHARING THE NORWEGIAN HERITAGE CAMP EXPERIENCE SINCE 1979

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR 2023 MASSE MORO YOUTH CAMP:**

- DATES: SUNDAY, JULY 16<sup>TH</sup> at 2:00 PM (check-in) thru SATURDAY, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2023. (On the final day a culminating program will start at 9:30 for parents and other guests.)
- **ELIGIBILITY:** District 5 youth\*, ages 9 to 15 (as of 1<sup>st</sup> day of camp, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023).

  \*Sons of Norway affiliation, while strongly encouraged, is not required for participation at Camp.
- **COST**: \$ 1000.00
- **CAMP APPLICATION FORMS** are available from our Lodge Secretary (Janice Gregoire), or get forms from the S of N District 5 website <a href="https://www.sonsofnorway5.com">www.massemoro.org</a>.
- PAYMENT: Note dates for 2023 to better plan for staffing and camp programming.
   Registration Deadline: April 15, 2023. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit & processing fee is payable with application. Parent or guardian must sign this form.
   Please mail to Lisa Rove-Williams, District 5 Youth Director, 711 W. Dresser Road, DeCalb, IL, 60115.
- Matching Funds Deadline to Apply is May 17: Contact our LODGE SECRETARY (JANICE GREGOIRE, 262-784-6953) FOR INFORMATION ABOUT MATCHING FUNDS. Our Lodge has voted to give matching funds of \$500 to each of two youths (registration deadline is April 15, 2023). District Five will also contribute UP TO \$250.00 each for the two youths.
- Application deadline is April 15, 2023 for those who wish to qualify for further support through District 5 and Draxten Funds. NOTE: For campers to receive additional monies from the Draxten Fund (that comes from S of N headquarters) toward their cost of camp, applications MUST be received by the registration deadline of April 15, 2023. The amount of Draxten funding per camper is determined by the number of campers who have applied by the deadline.
- Application deadline to apply for certain scholarships is March 15, 2023.
- <u>Final Payment</u>: Youth Director, Lisa Rove-Williams, will contact all applicants after receiving their registration fee, matching grant, first time campers, recruitment of a friend, and any and all scholarships they received to establish final payment. Final payment should also be sent to Lisa Rove-Williams by June 1, 2023. Make all checks payable to: <u>Nordic Legacy Foundation</u>. <u>Please print camper name(s) on all check memos</u>. Campers may make all camp fee payments via PayPal at www.MasseMoro.org or by check or a combination of both methods.

Bring a Friend: We encourage our youth to bring a friend! Campers who recruit a new camper and they both register by April 15, 2023 will also receive \$25 each toward their registration.

#### FOSSELYNGEN GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH HERITAGE APPLICANTS AND MATCHING FUNDS:

- A. The Lodge will provide matching funds from its Masse Moro scholarship fund for two applicants.
- B. Application is to be sent to our Lodge Secretary (Janice Gregoire).
- C. The applicant must be the child, grandchild, nephew or niece of a Lodge member in good standing. A member in good standing is identified as being a Fosselyngen member for a minimum of two years and working a minimum of ten volunteer hours during those two years.
- D. The applicant must provide one of the following after attending camp:
  - 1. A thank you and article written about his/her experience at camp that will be published in the Lodge newsletter. *OR*
  - 2. A presentation at a Lodge meeting about their experience at camp. They may also wish to bring photos and any type of project, e.g., rosemaling, hardanger, or wood carving.
- E. The applicant and his/her sponsor must sign a contract stating his/her obligations when applying for a scholarship to Heritage Camp.

#### Introducing My Immigrant Ancestor - Clara Kolbjørnsen Bjelland

Submitted by Louise Koxlien, Fosselyngen Member (Hanne Bonovich read the following story to our members at the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.)

My story begins with memories of my Maternal Grandmother Clara Kolbjørnsen Bjelland. She was born August 12, 1882, in Høglien, Norge. This is an area near Hamar known as Stange/Espa along the east side of Lake Mjøsa. She was the eighth of nine children born to Kolbjørn Hansen and Carine Thomasdatter Norstand. Tangen is noted for its octagon-shaped centuries old church where Clara and her family were baptized, confirmed, and buried.

Clara was quite the daring 20-year-old young lady who dreamed of a vacation in the U.S. Interestingly she admitted she didn't dare travel by herself. So she convinced her friend Ellen to go with her in the spring of 1903. She always talked about Ellen, but we never knew Ellen's full name until I was given a copy of the ship's manifest, the S.S. Cymric sailing from Liverpool on May 22, 1903 and arrived at the port of New York, June 1, 1903, a ten day trip. They first traveled from Chiristiania, now Oslo to Liverpool.



Our family is fortunate to have Grandma Clara tell us her life story on a audio cassette recorded in 1975. One year later she passed away, April 19, 1976, just three months shy of her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. Without this recording we were told of her life in pieces, and it was never written down or documented. Now Grandma spoke in a brogue, half Norsk and half English all her life. Now her story in her own voice is with us.

Her story continues how she borrowed money from her older brother Hans with the intention to pay him back after working about a year as a housemaid and returning to Norway. Ellen had family (a Cousin Anna Johanson) in Jersey City near New York, who was listed as their sponsor/contact. Grandma Clara tells us about her trip across the ocean. On board the ship these two young ladies didn't have any trouble mingling with the other passengers and the ship's crew. Their family and friends had given them a stash of wine or booze as send-off gifts. Now my grandmother never drank alcohol. She didn't have "sea legs" and tells how she spent her time in bed with "sjo", motion sickness. Ellen on the other hand took fancy to a young man from South Dakota, Oskar Berg, who had traveled to Norway to see relatives and was now returning. Grandma Clara tells of her stay in quarantine on Ellis Island. Both young ladies were able to find suitable jobs. Ellen sometime during their first year in New York decided she wanted to move to South Dakota to be near the young man she met on the ship and had been corresponding with. Of course, it was an exchange of letters but, how long did it take a letter to and from South Dakota? Soon Ellen wrote she was getting married to Oskar Berg and wanted Grandma to be her maid-of-honor.

Now Grandma had to make a big decision whether to sail back to Norway or take a train west and be even further away from her home in Norway. But she remembered how sick she was and felt she would surely die on the ship. She traveled to Woonsocket, South Dakota, arriving sometime the week before the ceremony. The night of the rehearsal a man who appeared strange to her picked her up with a team of black horses. She tells how scared she was as the strange looking man with the heavy black beard and black hair drove the horses real fast. She said she moved to the very edge of the wagon seat. The man told her he would come back the next day and take her to the wedding. This was my Grandfather Casper Bjelland, the best man and first cousin of the groom. Ellen and my grandmother became related but were not best friends. We have the picture of this wedding and one of Ellen and Oskar in the wedding attire. Grandma and Grandpa were married the following year, November 30, 1905.

They lived in Woonsocket where Grandpa was the farmer on the family farm and owned and operated a pool hall. I'm not sure of the next few years, but with two children (Lester and Bernice) and other family members they left South Dakota to homestead in North Dakota. The original homestead document was signed by Pres. Wm. H. Taft on November 18, 1909 and by his secretary M. W. Young. It is framed and hanging in my family's farm home in Curran Valley, Taylor, WI.

(Continued on next page.)

#### (Continued)

At first, they lived in a sod house until they could establish the other farm buildings and acquire animals I think of grandma leaving Oslo where she lived in a house with servants and now a home with earthen walls and floor. All was well, and another son Leroy was born in 1910 in Litton Township. Two more children were born, Lillian in May 1914 and Harold in May 1915. Then a hail storm sometime in 1915 totally destroyed their beautiful wheat field. They decided to move to Wisconsin in 1916 where Grandfather's older brother Albert and family lived.

The family grew to eight children. Another son Lloyd was born in July 1917 and Aunt Harriet was born in July 1920. They owned a small farm near Taylor, WI in Vosse Coulee. The children attended the small country one room school. All eight children graduated from Taylor High School (my high school). Life didn't treat my grandparents well. Daughter Lillian died in 1931 from complications of an ear infection. Son Leroy developed Multiple Sclerosis and passed away in 1937. With all the medical bills and the Great Depression, they had to say goodbye to their small farm. They moved to Taylor and rented an apartment called the "Beehive". Grandpa Casper worked at a local sawmill and Grandma Clara (was) a housekeeper and cook at the local restaurant. In December of 1942 the apartment building was destroyed by a fire. They were able to salvage most of their provisions and lived with friends.

Their next move was to Milwaukee and they lived there until the late 1950's. Their final move was to Uncle Lester's (oldest son) cabin in Hatfield, WI (a small resort town near Black River Falls). Grandpa had a bait shop and a few chickens. Grandma had a huge garden. Tourists would stop to shop and especially to hear their tales. Grandpa Casper passed away November 1972 at 92 and Grandma Clara in April 1976 at 93, four months short of her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Their life had heart breaking hardships, but their strength and faith were shared with all who met them. Grandma's "crockpot" was bottomless. I was always amazed how many she could feed, like the five loaves and two fish. She was brave, strong, and always loved by everyone. How blessed I am to have such a life from a young lady who left her home in Norway, never to return until she was 70 years old. Now that's another story.

Her story continues in our hearts and is only a click away to hear her voice telling of her adventures.

Grandma returned to Norway in May 1954, at the age of 72 She only told of visiting with her brother Hans and family even though three more of her siblings were still living. When meeting Hans, now 81, he said she was older looking than he thought she would be. Grandma's reply, "Vell, you don't look so young yourself".

Now my grandmother spoke in a brogue, half Norsk and half English. We have several fond memories of her speaking. One was she broke her big toe in a car accident and that caused the toenail to grow extra thick. It needed to be filed by a podiatrist as it could not be cut with a scissor. Like all of us do, she neglected to have this done often enough. One day she was limping and when asked, she said, "Uffta meg, it was the "information" in my big toe. She meant inflammation.

The favorite of all is how her "Y's" were "J's".

And her "V's" were "W's". Their family was together for a meal and Grandma's was a bowl of jello in her favorite glass bowl. She forgot the bowl and upon returning home she called to ask whether her bowl was found. She asked her granddaughter about her "yellow bowl". My cousin put the phone down to look for the yellow bowl. She returned to the phone to tell Grandma, no yellow bowl. "Vell", Grandma explained, "it was blue with yellow in it". Again, cousin thinking the bowl was blue with yellow flowers, put the phone down and again returned to the kitchen to look. Now Grandma can't understand and becomes frustrated and repeats again it was a blue bowl. Now the granddaughter, my cousin, realizes it was the blue bowl with a small capacity for one package of jello (two cups liquid). I'm not sure what happened to this bowl but, have always been on the lookout for another one like it.

#### **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
January/February issue.

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# 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 (<a href="https://www.sofn.com">https://www.sofn.com</a>) 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 May/June 2023 newsletter are <u>due by April 15<sup>th</sup></u>. Email articles to the editor, John Schneble, <u>csljohn@att.net</u> or mail to: 1024 North 121<sup>st</sup> Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53226. The editor reserves the right to edit all articles.



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

Ole was on a train trip in Norway, and the train was so crowded! But, of course, he was lucky enough to get a seat. The train was choo-chooing down the tracks when the conductor came back to Ole and said, "Mr. Olson, we are very crowded. Will you please take that suitcase off the seat beside you?" "No," said Ole.

"Well," the conductor said, "Mr. Olson, either take that suitcase off the seat or I'll throw it out the window!" "No," said Ole.

So the conductor, who was now very angry, threw the suitcase out the window.

"Boy," Ole said to the conductor, "vill da guy who vas sitting dere be mad ven he gets back."

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At the marriage retreat, the instructor talked about the importance of knowing what matters to each other. "For example," he began, pointing to Ole, "do you know your wife's favorite flower?" Ole answered, "Pillsbury All Purpose."

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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