

Important dates to remember:

Lodge Meeting Dates:

March 15, 2026 - 2:00 pm

April 30, 2026 - 6:30 pm start

May 28, 2026 - 6:30 pm start

All Lodge meetings held at the
Community Center - 107 N Grove St. in Mount
Horeb unless otherwise noticed in the
Newsletter article of a different location.

Board/Business Meeting Dates:

6:30pm at Culver's restaurant in Mt. Horeb

March 11, 2026

April 8, 2026

May 13, 2026

Mark your calendar dates –

March 25, 2026 – Waffle Appreciation Day

May 17, 2026 - Syttende Mai

June 5, 2026 – Constitution Day (Denmark)

June 6, 2026 – National Day (Sweden)

June 15, 2026 Edvard Grieg's Birthday

June 17, 2026 – National Day (Iceland)

June 26, 2026 – Lodge Picnic

July 17 -19 2026 – Kaffe Stue at the Art faire

October 9, 2026 – Lief Erikson day

December 6, 2026 – Independence Day
(Finland)

February 6, 2027 - National Sami Day
(Norway)

Hei Hei

As I write this, we just had a stretch of very cold Temps and wind chills. As they say in Norway- no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!



The big drawing for the trip to Norway is coming April 30 at our Lodge meeting, still time to buy your Ticket and Win the Trip!

Takk så mye,
Steve



Please make sure that any and all articles that you would like to have considered to be in the newsletter go to the e-mail vennelageditor@gmail.com, submissions that do not get sent to that e-mail address will not be published.

Takk!

The mission of Sons of Norway is to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members, promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, and celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries.

March meeting:

We will be seeing Ron Goplin and his ukelele group back on March 15 at 2 PM to serenade our Lodge with their songs and don't forget to bring your warmed up vocal cords. As there will be singing and a joyous time had by all. Colorful shirts are not necessary but welcomed!



April meeting:

The Norwegian American Genealogical Center has much to offer family historians with Norwegian ancestry. Dana Kelly will share information about resources available from the center as well as tips for Norwegian genealogical research.

<https://www.nagcni.org/>

Dana Kelly serves as the Executive Director of NAGC. An avid genealogist, her first experience with the center was as a member researching her family 25 years ago. Dana's passion for family history led her to a Scandinavian Studies degree from UW-Madison where she learned to speak, read and write Norwegian. She has served on the board of directors for the Koshkonong Prairie Historical Society since 2009 and is a member of several Norwegian cultural and genealogical organizations including Sons of Norway, Vesterheim, Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, Dane County Area Genealogical Society, and International Society of Online Genetic Genealogists. She and her husband, Gary Swain, have a dairy farm and three children.

May meeting:

Author, Gwen Hutchins, of Stoughton, Wisconsin, was awarded best seller status for her recently released book, Critical Air: A Flight Nurses Adventures From Alaska to Nepal.

Her book details rescue missions from remote Alaska villages, and also foreign repatriation of critical patients from Nepal and beyond. She also details her harrowing experience in the Philippines.



Gwen Hutchins is a registered nurse who worked for 25 years in various areas of critical care before taking on emergency flight nursing in remote areas of Alaska and beyond. While training, education, and experience provided the backbone of her career, her rural upbringing, self-reliance, tenacity, and courage made her the nurse who changed the lives of so many. Always the first to volunteer for new experiences, Gwen learned early on the importance of diversity, especially of knowledge. Her fearlessness, caring spirit, no nonsense approach, and ability to fix almost anything, made her a legend in Alaska and around the world.

All proceeds from this book benefit the Ed and Gwen Hutchins Family Foundation and it's goal to support youth communities.

June meeting:

Annual lodge picnic June 26, 5:00 pm at Brigham County Park, Blue Mounds, serving starts 5:30 pm.

Vennelag Lodge will provide burgers, brats; please provide a dish to pass if you can

This will be instead of the usual meeting

COME JOIN US AS WE CRUISE DOWN SOUTHERN WISCONSIN'S MAIN STREETS IN OUR BEAUTIFUL VIKING SHIP PARADE FLOAT.

- **STOUGHTON SYTENDE MAI FESTIVAL**
 - PARADE BEGINS AT 1:30 PM, SUNDAY, MAY 17th
- **VERONA HOMETOWN DAYS**
 - PARADE BEGINS AT NOON, SUNDAY, MAY 31ST
- **MOUNT HOREB SUMMER FROLIC**
 - PARADE BEGINS AT NOON, SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH

LINE-UP TIMES AND LOCATIONS WILL BE SENT VIA E-MAIL WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, PLEASE LET A BOARD MEMBER KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RIDING SO YOU ARE ABLE TO GET THE E-MAIL.

WATER WILL BE PROVIDED.

COME DRESSED IN YOUR FAVORITE NORWEGIAN ATTIRE.

Your Parade Coordinator,
Mark Hanson



Vennelag Lodge at the Mallards Friday, July 3, 2026
Night-mares (women's softball) starts at 3:05 Mallards game starts at 5:05 Food special starts at 4:35



ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FOR 90 MINUTES STARTING AT GATES OPEN

Cheeseburgers, Stoddard's Classic Brats, All-Beef Hotdogs, Vegan Black Bean Patties, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Watermelon, Chips.

BOTTOMLESS PEPSI PRODUCTS AND WATER FOR 90 MINUTES STARTING AT GATES OPEN. \$27

BEER OPTION INCLUDES BOTTOMLESS BEER FOR 90 MINUTES STARTING AT GATES OPEN. \$35



Once-a-year special - two games for the price of one, including ballpark food options! Sign up at any Vennelag event by June 15 or via email to vennelaglodge@gmail.com or awatrud@gmail.com



DECORAH, Iowa — Crown Prince Haakon of Norway visited Decorah on October 6 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the first organized Norwegian emigration to the United States, announced by Vesterheim, the National Norwegian American Museum and Folk Art School, and Luther College.

Vennelag Members travel to Decorah, Iowa

VESTERHEIM WELCOMES HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS CROWN PRINCE HAAKON OF NORWAY

October 6, 2025

Decorah, Iowa was bustling with excitement at the arrival of Crown Prince Haakon of Norway. I wish I could say it was a bright sunny day, but it was overcast and quite chilly. That did not stop the enthusiasm of the many Norwegians who came dressed in their bunads, Norwegian sweaters, Norwegian hats and mittens to see the Crown Prince.

The day for Randi Gallagher Kluesner and I started at the Lefse Lodge Kafe. Breakfast was a cup of Rømmegrøt and scrambled eggs in a lefse roll! SOOOO GOOD! It was here that we were surprised to see and eat with Cheryl Wille-Schlesser.

The three of us joined the excited crowd, which included Barb and Mike Mørkri, waiting for Crown Prince Hakon's arrival.

The Luren Singing Society sang the National Anthems of Norway and the United States.

The Crown Prince was presented with the Den Hoyeste Ære Award.

"His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon's visit marked the 200th anniversary of the first organized Norwegian emigration to the United States. On July 4, 1825, a group of 52 Norwegians set sail on the *Restauration* to New York City. Since that first voyage, about 900,000 people have followed. Today, nearly five million people in North



America claim Norwegian ancestry. The Crown Prince highlighted the deep cultural and historical ties between the two countries and promoting cooperation in business, education, and culture”. He continued the dedication of the Vesterheim remodel with the cutting of the ribbon.



We then proceeded to Luther College to have the pleasure of watching the Crown Prince’s Conferral of an Honorary Degree by Provost Pam Bacon and to listen to his Royal remarks.

The day was a day of pride to be Norwegian, to see the Crown Prince and to hear him speak. It was a day Cheryl, Randi, Barb, Mike and I will always remember.

Arlene Watrud Krueger



Norwegian Potato Stew (Lapskaus)

Serves 6

15 minutes prep time

30 minutes cook time

Ingredients:

2 turnips, peeled and chopped

3 lbs. russet potatoes, peeled and chopped

2 carrots, peeled and chopped

1 stalk celery, chopped

1 onion, diced
8 oz. ham steak, cubed
2 Tbsp. salted butter
1 quart chicken broth
2 bay leaves
1 Tbsp. fresh parsley, minced
Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper, to taste

Directions:

1. Using a large Dutch oven or heavy-bottomed pot, add all ingredients to the pot and bring the stew up to a simmer. Let cook for 20-25 minutes or until the vegetables are soft.
2. Season the stew with salt and lots of cracked black pepper. Using an immersion blender or hand masher, lightly blend some of the stew to create a thicker viscosity. Garnish with parsley.
3. Enjoy!

In case you haven't heard:
The Digitization of Norway

Norway has its sights set on becoming the world's most digitized country by 2030. While that date seems far away, the work has already begun. This initiative is part of a new national digitization strategy that was created to set clear goals to achieve the digital Norway of the future. Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre points to three main benefits that will result from this strategy: a simpler and safer everyday life, a more competitive business sector, and a more modern public sector.

The digitization initiative is a response in part to other factors, including a growing elderly population with a shrinking work force. Despite this, work tasks will continue to grow and the need to remain competitive in the global market will continue.

The strategy contains five core measures that planners say are vital to its success. Included in these measures are offering high-speed broadband services, education and training, building infrastructure around AI, faster processing, and safeguards in digital marketing and use.

The collaboration of Norwegian government leaders, private sector business, social, and research communities all know that this is an ambitious endeavor but are confident that the foundation that is now laid will result in success.

Trending topic: Noctourism

According to Booking.com, “noctourism” – short for nocturnal tourism – is on the rise. Nocturnal tourism is the concept of planning a holiday around experiences that occur after the sun goes down. Booking.com is so confident in “noctourism” that they predict it will be among 2025’s most sought-after travel experiences. It provides a whole new world of opportunity that the regular tourist likely has not partaken in.

The trend is already evident with the Northern Lights in Norway. Searches for places in Tromsø, Norway, doubled in the months leading up to the end of October 2024, compared with the same timeframe the year prior. People are excited about the chance to see the Northern Lights and are flocking to Norway to make their dreams a reality. Norway is just one example of the gems for noctourism; there are a plethora of places around the world that hold intriguing stories after dark, just waiting to be heard.

To accompany the Lapkus recipe earlier in the newsletter make and enjoy the following recipe from our own Secretary – Mary

Norwegian brown Bread

from Tim Flakoll (submitted by Mary Kranz-Gullickson)

- 8c hot water
- 1c brown sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ c molasses
- 1 tbsp salt
- 3 pkg yeast
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c shortening



- 4 c graham flour
- 12c white flour

Preheat oven to 325F. Mix together hot water, sugar, molasses, salt, and shortening. Let stand until cool. Add yeast, then mix graham and white flour. Rest dough 15 -20 minutes. Knead with flour. Let rise double. Punch down, and let rise again. Shape into rolls or loaves. Bake for 50 minutes.

Visitors from our last few meetings of 2025:



TRANSLATION

Pardon any missteps on the Norwegian portion of the translation into this newsletter as the editor is not a Norwegian language reader. Also this is not a current article but one to practice Norwegian reading skills.

Dronning Sonja på besøk i Skien

Dronning Sonja er Norges Husflidslags høye beskytter, og deltok denne helga på et arrangement på Telemark Museum og Ibsenhuset. Dronningen hadde pyntet seg med bunad fra Telemark for anledningen.

Hun ble tatt i mot av statsforvalter Trond Rønningen, ordfører i Skien Marius Roheim Aarvold og visepolitimester Kathrine Stein. Ved museet ble hun ønsket velkommen av det Agnete Siverten, styreleder i Norges Husflidslag og Barbra De Haan, direktør ved Telemark museum.

Photo credit: Flickr

Besøkende fra hele landet

Sist uke arrangerte Norsk husflidslag et stort treff, kalt «Tekstilsymposium» i Skien. Det er en samling for alle som er interessert i og driver med tekstil kulturarv.

– Folk har reist fra hele landet for å delta på dette, sier Helene Henriksen i Norsk husflidslag, og legger til at de er veldig stolte av at dronningen vier to dager til programmet deres. Fra onsdag til fredag har det blitt arrangert flere kurs i sjeldne tekstile teknikker på Telemark Museum.

Konferanse på Ibsenhuset

Dronningen deltok på åpningen og også på det faglige programmet i helga.

– Tekstilsymposium 2024 har Rødlista som gjennomgående tema. Med det håper vi å



skape større bevissthet rundt levende tradisjoner, immateriell kulturarv og praksiskunnskapen knyttet til gjemt og nesten glemt husflidskunnskap, heter det i pressemeldingen fra Norges Husflidslag. Lørdag deltok dronningen på konferansen på Ibsenhuset, hvor hvor hun blant annet fikk høre foredrag om Anne Bamle og Rødtrøye bunaden.

Excerpted from: [Varden.no](https://www.varden.no)

TRANSLATION FROM PREVIOUS: Queen Sonja Visits Skien

Queen Sonja is the High Patron of *Norges Husflidslag*—The Norwegian Folk Art and Craft Association—and over the weekend took part in an event at the Telemark Museum and the Ibsenhuset. The queen wore a bunad from Telemark for the occasion.

She was welcomed by state administrator Trond Rønningen, mayor of Skien Marius Roheim Aarvold and deputy police chief Kathrine Stein. At the museum, she was welcomed by Agnete Siverten, chairman of Norges Husflidslag and Barbra De Haan, director of the Telemark Museum.

Visitors from all over the country

Last week, The Norwegian Folk Art and Craft Association held a large conference, called "Textile Symposium" in Skien. It is a gathering for everyone who is interested in and deals with textile cultural heritage.

"People have traveled from all over the country to take part in this," says Helene Henriksen of the Norwegian Folk Art and Craft Association, adding that they are very proud that the Queen has devoted two days to attending their event.

From Wednesday to Friday, several courses in rare textile techniques were offered at the Telemark Museum.

Conference at Ibsenhuset

The Queen attended the opening and also the professional program over the weekend.

"The 2024 Textile Symposium has the Red List [a list that captures endangered craft techniques] as a running theme. With this, we hope to create greater awareness about living traditions, intangible cultural heritage and the practical knowledge linked to hidden and almost forgotten folk art and craft knowledge, says the press release from Norges Husflidslag.

On Saturday, the queen attended the conference at the Ibsenhuset, where she heard lectures about Anne Bamle and the Rødtrøye bunaden [bunad maker who developed the East-Telemark bunad with a red jacket], among other things.

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Our newsletters are always available in color on the District 5 website: www.sonsofnorway5.com.

*Find us on the web: www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org

*If you know someone who is interested in membership in Vennelag Lodge, please direct them to this site. It will give them a better idea of our organization.

