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Language Specialist
Jan Flatoff

Cultural Skills Coord.
Karen Trzebiatowski

Trustee (2019-2021)
Milo Harpsted

Trustee (2017-2019)
Kress Williamson

Trustee (2018-2020)
Mark Hansen, Jr.

Vennligfolk Lodge
meets the second
Sunday evening, 5:00 pm
September thru May
at St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
600 Wilshire Blvd Stevens
Point, WI

Vennligblad



Friendly pages for the 'friendly people' of Vennligfolk and their friends
Sons of Norway Lodge #5-627 for Central Wisconsin
Stevens Point, Whiting, and Plover

Volume 26 Issue 6

NOVEMBER OG DESEMBER 2019

Fra
presidenten:



We are well into the season of football, sweaters (Norwegian, of course), pumpkins, and **Vennligfolk Lodge** meetings. The start-up of our monthly lodge meetings could not have been better as we enjoyed the McGraths' September program on monarch



had the privilege of working with during the last five years and will be working with in 2020. These officers do a lot of behind the scenes work that make **Vennligfolk Lodge** run smoothly.

butterflies and Wendell Nelson's program on Norwegian Lutheran Churches.

When you look over the roster, you will notice a new position, "Webmaster." Yes, **Vennligfolk Lodge** will soon have a presence on the internet in the form of a webpage and possibly Face Book. One of our newer members, Patricia Serio, has volunteered for this position. Patricia is trained in webpage design and actually does this for a living. We hope to have this "up and running" sometime in January.

Forty-two people went on the *Road Trip to Vesterheim* in September. **Vennligfolk** member, Karen Trzebiatowski, planned an *amazing* trip that included visits at Norskedalen, the Bily Clock Museum, St. Wenceslaus Church, Vesterheim, and Seed Savers. Of course there were also shopping stops at Scandinavian stores which many of us took advantage of. It was a fun learning adventure that everyone on board the bus thoroughly enjoyed. Tusen takk to Karen for her time and effort in planning this wonderful road trip for our lodge. Word has it that Karen already has another trip on the "back burner."

Please mark your calendars for our Julefest and 25th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, December 8, 2019. The Julefest committee has been busy planning a wonderful evening for our members and guests. Back by popular demand will be Jule Nisse and his Elf. So we are asking all attendees to bring a wrapped "white elephant" gift, preferably a Scandinavian gift. This does not have to be an expensive gift. You probably already have something Scandinavian in your home that you would be willing to part with for this fun activity. Also, if you would like to invite someone to this year's Julefest, please write down their names and addresses and get your

Our lodge is continuing to grow. "Velkommen" to our newest lodge member, Sally Prideaux. Many of you already met Sally as she was with us on our recent road trip.

November is the month for elections in our country and also in **Vennligfolk Lodge**. Included on page 4 of this newsletter is the roster of candidates for our election. As your president, I sincerely want to thank all of the officers I have

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

November

Joyce Polson - 9
John Clifford - 18
Cindy Larson Kluck 26

November						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Desember

Charmian Fournier- 3
Donna Van Dreser - 8
Judy Pesanka - 15
Elaine Anderson - 17
Andrea Brown - 17
Lori Johnson - 18
Carl Rasmussen - 23
Carolyn Sommer – 28

December						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???



November 10, 2019 (Sunday): "A Secret Life Exposed" Before becoming a math teacher in Stevens Point, Bob Rutta was an Army Sergeant stationed in Italy during the Vietnam War era. His undercover job of decoding top-secret, highly sensitive communications involving NATO, the Pentagon, and the CIA made him a prime target for Russian KGB agents during and for many years after his time in service. Bob could not talk about his "secret life" for 25 years after leaving the service. Finally, Bob can tell his story!

December 8, 2019 (Sunday): Julefest 2019 + 25 Years of Vennligfolk Lodge! Vennligfolk Lodge will celebrate Julefest and our 25 years as a SON lodge in Scandinavian style beginning at 4:30 PM. Formal invitations will be sent to all members and guests. Additional details will be shared at our November meeting.

January 12, 2020 "Our Grandparent's Norwegian Emigration" Lodge President Susan Morton and her brother, Tom Johnson, will share interesting new family research they gathered on their paternal grandparents' emigration from Sarpsborg, Norway in April 1906 and their life after settling in Wisconsin. John and Olina Johnson thought their stay in America would only be for a few years. Little did they know that those "few years" ended up being a lifetime!



February 9, 2020 "Scandinavian Happiness" Year after year the Danes, Finns, Swedes, Norwegians, and Icelanders, rank among the happiest folks in the world. Richard Ruppel, Emeritus Professor of World Languages and Literature, UWSP, will explore what these cultures have or do that produces this "happiness" and what we might learn from them.

March 8, 2020 "The Buzz on Bees" Bees provide us with honey and pollinate our crops, yet their very survival is imperiled. Bee enthusiast, Pamela Fleishauer will provide a short history of our long relationship with bees, current bee keeping practices and what can be done to encourage the survival of honey bees and other pollinators. Pamela will bring a hive, frames and other bee equipment for viewing.

April 5, 2020 "A Norwegian's Battle for Breath" – by Jed Haas
(note earlier monthly meeting date)

May 3, 2020 "Our 2019 Norwegian Experience" Mark and Cindy Kluck
(note earlier monthly meeting date)

May 9 2020 (Saturday) Cultural Fest 2020 10am - 5pm - Stevens Point Area Senior High
Food, Fun & Music from Around the World

Other Events of Interest

November 12. Tuesday Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner hosted by Myrmarken Lodge 5-609 of Marshfield at the Eagles Club 1104 S. Oak Ave, Marshfield. Serving begins at 6 pm. Reservations required. Call Dorothy Berg at 715-305-9699 to reserve a seat. Cost \$16.

November 17 Sunday Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner hosted by Norse Valley Lodge 5-491 (Appleton) at Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Dr, Kimberly, WI. Social time 4:30 pm; meal at 5 pm. Reservations required. Email norsevalley@gmail.com for a reservation form or call 920-450-3584. Cost: \$21 adults. Reservations and payment must be postmarked by Wednesday, November 6. All are welcome!

Vesterheim Decorah Iowa Road Trip – September 24-25



Viking History Comes to Life

Tucked away in the western fjords of Norway is a small town called Gudvangen that hosts a real-life Viking village, complete with real-life Vikings. Bringing in thousands of tourists every year, the village of Njardarheimr provides an authentic experience showing how Vikings lived 1,000 years ago.



The community was built using traditional methods with only local materials found throughout the fjord. Ironwork is handmade by an experienced blacksmith and the food court serves dishes that are cooked in a pit, smoked or spit roasted. The village also has an undisputed king, Georg Olafur Reydarson Hansen, who for the past 20 years has worked to establish this Viking settlement.



Around 40 Viking reenactment groups in Norway are active participants in the village and help provide an unforgettable experience for visitors. To learn more, visit <https://www.uk.vikingvalley.no/>

Explore Your Heritage

If you are curious about your family lineage, then inspiration to begin exploring is available from Sons of Norway newly updated guide, **Genealogy Tips and Hints**. This handy 10-page introduction will help you get your research going with information about Norwegian names and places. Exclusively for Sons of Norway members, you'll find the guide online at www.sofn.com in the Member Resources area under Genealogy.



After eight Vennligfolk members expressed interest in pursuing their family history, Lodge Genealogy Specialist, Mark Hansen, has started another **Cultural Skills Genealogy Group**. Classes begin October 29 at St Pauls UMC at 7 pm. The next meeting date will be November 26. A day long research field trip to the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center in Madison will be arranged soon. Spots are still open. Come join and find you ancestors! Connect with Mark Hansen

Election Time!

Vennligfolk 2020 Officers Slate



Vennligfolk selects officers and various leaders at the regularly scheduled November meeting each year. Terms begin at the subsequent January meeting. For 2020, the following slate is proposed and will be presented to the Lodge at the November 10th meeting.

2020 Vennligfolk Nominations

President:	Susan Morton
Vice -President:	Lois Hagen
Secretary:	Tom Johnson
Treasurer:	Judy Pesanka
Financial Secretary:	Arno Morton
Program Director:	Charlotte Hensler
Newsletter Editor	Carl Rasmussen
Newsletter Distributor:	Lynn Rasmussen
Webmaster:	Patricia Serio
Publicity:	Kathy Clucas
Librarian:	Jane Gjevre
Musician:	Louise Lang
Sunshine Coordinator:	Bea Berg
Historian:	Lois Hagen
Language Specialist:	Jan Flatoff
Cultural Skills:	Karen Trezbiatowski
Trustee (2019-2022):	Tom Johnson

Continuing Trustees

Trustee (2019-2021):	Milo Harpstead
Trustee (2018-2020):	Mark Hansen

Each of the above-named individuals have agreed to serve the office to which they will be elected. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.



Mandarin Orange Salad

This delicious salad was served to the Vesterheim travelers on our visit to St. Wenceslaus Church in Spillville, Iowa. Many requested the recipe!



DRESSING:

½ tsp. salt	2 Tbs. vinegar
Dash of Pepper	¼ Cup salad oil
2 Tbs. sugar	1 Tbs. parsley
¼ tsp Almond extract	Dash of red pepper sauce

Shake in tightly covered container and refrigerate

¼ cup sliced almonds	1 cup chopped celery
1½ Tbs sugar	3 chopped green onions
¼ head lettuce	1 can mandarin oranges
¼ head romaine lettuce	

Cook almonds, and 1½ tablespoons sugar until sugar is melted and almonds are coated; cool. Break apart and store at room temperature. Tear lettuce and romaine. Mix with celery and onions. Combine vegetables, almonds and dressing 5 minutes before serving. Top with mandarin oranges.

Fra Presidenten, - Continued from page 1

List to me or one of the other Julefest committee members (Kathy Clucas, Jen Haas, Lois Hagen, and Charlotte Hensler). Formal invitations will be sent to all members and guests.

How special to be celebrating **Vennligfolk Lodge's** 25th Anniversary! Some of our current members were at that first ever lodge meeting on October 9, 1994. We are planning a pictorial history of our lodge that will be viewed at Julefest. It will be fun to see our lodge through the ages with pictures from its beginning to present day. It is also special to know that 25 years later, **Vennligfolk Lodge** is still growing and thriving. We have lots to celebrate!

Vennlig hilsen, Susan Morton

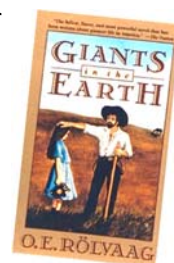
Cultural Skills Corner

There are 14 different Cultural Skill activities that can be pursued on your own or in a group. Cultural Skills coordinator Karen Trzebiatowski has information on them all!



The **Stitching Group** will meet Oct 30 at 1 pm at Karen Trzebiatowski's Nelsonville home. New members are welcome. If interested call Karen and talk about your interests and how she can help you get started. Knitting, weaving, and Hardanger are individual Stitchery skills that each can lead to a pin recognition. Call or email Karen at 715-824-7679 or Karentrzeb@gmail.com Karen's home address is 3041 Oak Street, Nelsonville.

Persons interested in the **Reading/Literature Group** will have a first organizational meeting October 29 at 6:00 pm at St Paul's UMC. Karen has info to work on a Level 1 pin and will speak about other requirements. A Level 1 pin requires reading three books. Think about starting a winter reading project and sign-up! Karen has info packets ready for you at \$1.50 or you can go to SON website and get it. Go to "Member Resources."



Mark Hansen is ready to guide another **Genealogy Group** research their personal Scandinavian lineage, work toward a Cultural Skill pin and make exciting discoveries. Meeting dates are planned for the last Tuesday of the month at St Paul's UMC. If interested let Mark H. or Karen Trzebiatowski know. *See also "**Explore Your Heritage**" on page 4.



Pursuing a Level 1 Cultural Skill is the best way to start **Chip Carving** in the Norwegian style. Jerry Trzebiatowski is open to leading a class this winter. Let Jerry know if you are interested.

Learning Cultural Skills are a great way to get to know the lodge members better and gain a greater understanding of Norwegian Heritage.

Type "lutefisk" while writing a Google Gmail, and its spellchecker wants to replace lutefisk with "lutenist."

A lutenist is a "lute player." A lute is a plucked stringed instrument from the Middle Ages. What then do we call an expert in lutefisk? Does that make them a "Lutefiskenist?"

Introducing: Patti Rous

I visited and then joined our local lodge, after my daughter, Sarah, became engaged to Anders Johan Andreassen from Norway. Their story and eventual marriage last year in Wisconsin was the topic of my presentation last March, "A Norsk Wedding on 2nd Lake!" This past summer, we all visited Norway and celebrated their "Norwegian Wedding" with the extended Norwegian Family and they were pronounced, "Still Married!" Sarah and Anders reside in California, but have been visitors here at a lodge meeting.



"Adult Week of Norwegian Language and Culture" at Concordia Language Camp in Bemidji, Minnesota two different years and probably will attend again in the future. I like to cook and bake, and trying out new Norwegian recipes and sharing with all of you has been fun. A highlight has to be making lefse from peeling potatoes to grilling and eating the lefse with Carl and Lynn Rasmussen and being

part of "forming the lefse balls" gathering the morning of the Portage County Cultural Festival and "rolling out the lefse" as part of our Lodge Booth.

I was born in Madison, Wisconsin and with a maiden name of Adler, I am 100% German as far as I know. I graduated from Wisconsin Heights, H.S., a new school at the time made up of Black Earth and Mazomanie students. I went on to earn a B.S. in Sociology/Psychology at UW-Platteville and later a M.S. from UW- Madison in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling. My career spanned lots of years, wearing different hats, working for the Opportunity Development Centers (ODC), connecting and supporting people in jobs throughout the Central Wisconsin area.

Besides learning about all things Norwegian, I enjoy being active in our community. I am a member of LAEGOS, (Ladies Actively Enjoying the Great Outdoors), and hike, bike, kayak, and snowshoe per season with a great group of women from the Central Wisconsin area. I am a Bridge player, golfer, and member of the Stevens Point Curling Club and during the winter months, Curl about four times a week. I live on the Wisconsin River and enjoy kayaking and pontoon cruising. I am an active birder and belong to the Aldo Leopold Audubon Chapter and am Co-Chair of the Wisconsin Nicaragua Partners, Stevens Point/Esteli Partner City.

I met my husband, Jerry, at UW-Platteville, and we moved to Stevens Point when he accepted a one-year commitment to teach Sociology at UWSP. That led to a career both at UWSP and also the Portage County Commission on Aging—the precursor to the present Portage County Aging and Disability Center at the Lincoln Center. Jerry died much too young in 2011.

Oh, and recently, I again took up knitting----maybe there is some Norwegian blood in me—you can never tell where those "Vikings" may have traveled!.....

I have exceedingly enjoyed the opportunity to learn so much about the country of Norway and its culture and language, both in the past and present. I attended the

From the Editor: Over the next year we'll look to do articles on both new and long-term members. Lodge members are asked to submit short introduction articles on their own or please respond when asked.

Tusen Takk, Carl R. Editor

Photos from "The Marvelous Monarch Butterfly" presentation September 8 – Magic was in the air!



a little in English...***Oslo Loves Hot Dogs***

For Norwegians, no soccer game or national holiday is complete without a couple of hot dogs in lompe with ketchup, mustard and crispy onions.

It is most common to serve hot dogs in lompe: a flat, soft pastry made from potatoes. On its own it is a little dry, but together with the hot dog they make a perfect flavor combination.

The hot dog stand also has a rich tradition in Oslo. It was the place you stopped to pick up a classic snack after work or on the way to or from a party.

In the old days, it seemed like there was a hot dog stand on every corner, but today there are very few left of the small booths that used to define the cityscape. Eventually, it became difficult and harder to compete with larger chain stores, with their wider offerings and longer opening hours, and most had to close.

Loved by The Guardian

But some have held their ground, and Erlend Dahlbo and his Syverkiosk on Alexander Kielland's Square is one of them. Syverkiosken has become a symbol of old Oslo..

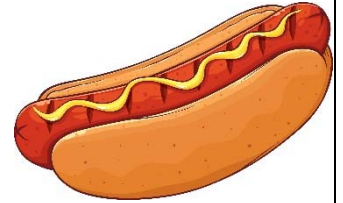
Syverkiosken is a popular destination for hungry people throughout the day. Last year, the kiosk was mentioned in the British newspaper The Guardian, which described the hot dogs as "at once comforting yet also deliciously spiced."

It was his father who taught Erlend everything he knew to make the perfect hot dog. The trick? A secret broth that is boiled before the hot dogs are added. He jokingly refuses to reveal what the successful recipe consists of. Some secrets must be kept.

Whatever toppings you prefer: mustard, ketchup, crispy onions, dressing, bacon, relish, be assured that there is a hot dog for you!

litt på norsk...***Oslo elsker pølser***

For nordmenn flest er ingen fotballkamp eller nasjonaldag komplett uten et par wienerpølser i lompe med ketsjup, sennep og sprøstekt løk.



Det er vanligst å servere pølsa i lompe; et flatt, mykt bakverk lagd av poteter. For seg selv er lompa litt tørr, men sammen med pølsa utgjør de en perfekt smakskombinasjon.

Også pølsekiosken har en rik tradisjon i Oslo. Det var stedet du kunne stikke innom etter jobb eller på vei til/fra fest for å få deg et klassisk mellommåltid.



Før i tiden kunne det virke som det lå en pølsekiosk på hvert gatehjørne, men i dag er det svært få igjen av de små bodene som pleide å definere bybildet. Etter hvert ble det vanskeligere og vanskeligere å hamle opp med større kjedekiosker med sine bredere tilbud og lengre åpningstider, og de aller fleste måtte stenge.

Elsket av The Guardian

Men noen har holdt stand, og Erlend Dahlbo og hans Syverkiosken på Alexander Kiellands plass er en av dem. Syverkiosken har blitt et symbol på det gamle Oslo.

Syverkiosken er et populært destinasjonssted for sultne folk gjennom hele dagen. I fjor ble kiosken nevnt i den britiske avisen The Guardian, som beskrev pølsene som "at once comforting yet also deliciously spiced".

Det var faren hans som lærte Erlend alt han kunne om å lage den perfekte wieneren. Trikket? En hemmelig kraft som kokes opp før pølsene legges oppi. Han nekter spøkefullt å røpe hva suksessoppskriften består av. Noen hemmeligheter må man få ha.

Uansett hva du liker å ha på: sennep, ketsjup, sprøstekt løk, dressing, bacon, agurk-mix, vær trygg på at det finnes en pølse for deg.

"A Doll's House Part 2" Performed in Spring Green

The American Players Theater are now performing "**A Doll's House Part 2**" thru November in Spring Green, WI. This recent Broadway production revisits the characters of Henrik Ibsen's 1879 play "A Doll's House" fifteen years later, seeing all the things that have changed in the Helmer home and what has not. The fast-paced and contemporary sequel by Lucas Hnath strives to "answer all your questions" and stands perfectly well on its own. The play was nominated for a 2017 Tony Award for Best Play. Ticket information at <https://americanplayers.org/>



Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627
 Carl Rasmussen, Editor
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SAVE THE DATE!
 Sunday, November 10, 2019
"A Secret Life Exposed"
 By Bob Rutta

Sunday, December 8, 2019
Julefest
 at St Pauls United Methodist Church

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.

Vennligblad, the official newsletter of Sons of Norway's Vennligfolk Lodge (#5-627), is published at the beginning of the odd-numbered months of the year. If you have an item of interest to Vennligfolk members, please submit it to the Editor by the 15th of the even-numbered months. You may send it to Carl Rasmussen at 3136 Dans Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by e-mail addressed to: Vennligblad@gmail.com
Mange Tusen Takk, Carl Rasmussen, Editor

Support Tubfrim. As you receive mail with postage stamps, cut the postage off leaving a ¼ inch boarder of paper. Bring your stamps to the next regular Vennligfolk meeting. Start today with cutting the stamp from the mailed edition of Vennligblad!



 **SONS of NORWAY**

Celebrating **125 Years**

Sons of Norway celebrates 125 years beginning January 16, 2020. Watch for celebration activities and commemorative items.

Celebrating 25 years of Vennlig!

Vennligfolk Lodge 5-627 began celebrating our 25th year as a chartered lodge October 9, 2019



Type "uffda" in Microsoft Word and its spellchecker wants to replace **uffda** with "uffdah."

The accepted spelling is "Uff da."
 That seem to make Microsoft's correction an "Uff da on Uff da!"

Type "Uffda" while writing a Google Gmail, and its spellchecker wants to correct it with "Dandruff!"

Although, if you happen to see a few flakes on your shoulders, "Uff Da" seems to be the right response!