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Lynn Rasmussen

Trustee (2024-2026)

Karen Trzebiatowski

Trustee (2023-2025)

Kress Williamson

Vennligfolk Lodge
meets the second
Sunday at 5:00 pm

Sept thru Dec & April-May;
and, meets the second Sunday
Jan thru March at 1PM
at St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
600 Wilshire Blvd Stevens
Point, WI



Vennligblad



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

Volume 32 Issue 4

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

JULI OG AUGUST 2025

**Fra
presidenten:**



Tusen Takk to everyone who had a part in this year's Cultural Festival!

So many members provided baked goods, made lefse, helped with the set-up & take-down, worked at our tables, and gave monetary donations. I must mention Carl & Lynn Rasmussen who were in charge of making the lefse. They spent countless hours planning, organizing work days, and making sure that everything was ready for making lefse at SPASH. Our participation in this yearly event is our lodge's only fundraiser, and we had a very successful day because of everyone's efforts. Our treasurer reports that our treasury is now very "healthy." And, yes, **Vennligfolk Lodge's** lines were the longest lines at the Cultural Festival. The word is out that our tables have the most delicious baked goods and lefse!

Our **Vennligfolk** Officers are already making plans for the rest of this year. We don't have our regular lodge meetings in the summer, but we did have our Midtsommer Picnic on the beautiful grounds of the South New Hope Church in June.

We also have a Dessert Social scheduled for August 24th at the Schmeekle Reserve Shelter starting at 6:00PM. We are asking members to bring a pie to this gathering if you are able. I'm planning on making a Door County cherry pie, my favorite. Check the schedule of events on page 2 of this newsletter for our other meetings and activities for the rest of this year.

Recently, Jane Gjevre and Kathy Clucas have been busy reorganizing the **Vennligfolk Lodge's** library cart. At our

September 14th Lodge meeting there will be a table of books, videos, and magazines that will no longer be on the cart, and you will be free to take any of the items to add to your own library.

By now, you probably are well into your summer plans. By the time you read this, Arno & I will have spent a week in the Dominican Republic and three days in Wisconsin Dells. Both will be vacations with our family. I hope all our members have time to enjoy the warm days of summer and spend time with family and friends.

As a retired teacher, I still remember how much I enjoyed (and needed) a summer break. By the time September came along, I was ready and anxious to start the new school year. That's about how I feel about leading our Vennligfolk Lodge. After a summer break, I am eager to start up lodge meetings again and enjoy the fellowship of our wonderful lodge members!

Have a Happy 4th of July everyone.

Hilsen, Susan Morton

Treasurer Judy Pesanka reports:

As of June 4, 2025 after all bills for Cultural Fest were paid, the lodge showed a balance of \$6,767.67.

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Birthdays of the Month

Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the
day!

Juli



Arno Morton – 1

July 4

Karen Dorn – 18

Frederick Morgan - 28

St Olaf's Day - 29

July						
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		

August

Thomas Boudreau - 1

Rosy Paulson - 4

Tom Johnson – 4

Jen Haas - 8

Lois Alfsen – 9

Kathy Clucas - 11

Ron Hensler - 15

Bill Beversdorf - 17

Karen Trzebiatowski - 18

Rita Johnson - 21

Jan Flatoff – 27

August						
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???



August 14 at 6PM – Summer Dessert Social at Schmeekle Reserve Menzel Pavilion. Members bring a pie or dessert to share at this informal gathering as you are able. The Roy and Margaret Menzel Pavilion is located just off the main parking lot for the Schmeekle Visitor Center at 2419

North Point Drive, Stevens Point, across the street from Sentry Golf Course. Surrounded by prairie, the Roy and Margaret Menzel Pavilion is a beautiful open-air picnic shelter featuring a two-story native sandstone fireplace, stone columns, large wood timbers, a cedar roof, and seating for about 60 people with handcrafted benches and tables. See special map insert in print version.



Sept 14 5PM Get to Know Elvedal, Myrmarken & Vennligfolk The two lodges from Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield are merging with Vennligfolk of Stevens Point, Plover & Whiting. Here's a time to meet and greet! See pgs 4-5 for a brief history of each of the three lodges.

Sat/Sun Sept 20-21 21st Annual Wood Carving Show, Competition, & Sale At the Holiday Inn, Stevens Point 1001 Amber Ave. For info contact **Jerry Trzebiatowski** at **715-310-9900** or **jerald6@gmail.com** or webpage: <https://wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org>

Oct 3-5 - Sons of Norway District 5 Adult Culture Weekend in Norway, Illinois.

Our lodge is exploring interest in attending. The weekend includes historical presentations, classes and demonstrations of Norwegian Art/Skills, along with several meals with Norwegian specialties (including lutefisk), Norwegian barn dancing and a Norwegian church service. **Please contact Patti Rous, Lois Hagen, or Susan Morton** to express interest and we will follow through and give you more detailed information on reservations, lodging, etc. for a group trip or on your own.



Oct 19 2 PM The Stoughton Dancers will entertain and enlighten attendees on traditional Scandinavian folk dance and authentic Norwegian bunads. The dance troupe will delight audiences with their intricate footwork, athleticism, and enthusiasm for traditional Norwegian culture. Hosted by Vennligfolk culminating our Lodge's 30 year anniversary. Meeting at Woodlands Church, 190 Hoover Ave, Plover, WI. Note the Date, Time, and Location change in lieu of our regular October meeting.

Nov 9 at 5 PM The Restauration – Then and Now

Presented by Patti Rous - 2025 marks the *200th Anniversary* of the first organized emigration of *Norwegians* to the United States. The single mast sloop, Restauration, left Stavanger on July 4, 1825. The trip will be recreated this year with a landing in New York City set for Leif Erickson Day, October 9, 2025



Sunday December 14 Julefest 2025 at Fletcher Hall, St Pauls UMC. Mark your calendars! Social hour starts at 4:30 PM with dinner starting at 5:30 PM. Planning is underway. Extra help is always welcome and expect sign-up sheets for bringing food.

Celebrating
30 years of Vennlig!

Recent Photos at Vennligfolk



On May 4, Jerry Trzebiatowski's program described the Swedish word "*Slöjd*" as meaning "joining the head, heart, and hands." He told how the philosophy of *sloyd* influences his art, and how individuals can explore the value of the concept in our lives today. Jerry brought numerous examples of wood carving, metalwork, and knitting developed under the *Sloyd* rubric.



Cultural Fest 2025 !!!



A History of Elvedal, Myrmarken, and Vennligfolk

Efforts are underway to merge the three central Wisconsin lodges of Elvedal, Myrmarken, and Vennligfolk. Some tasks remain for Myrmarken, but Elvedal merger moves forward. The following are brief histories of the three lodges:

The History of Elvedal 556



With Joe Thompson, SON Field Staff Representative from Black River Falls having done the recruiting, Elvedal Lodge 556 was ready to become a Sons of Norway Lodge by fall 1975. On December 11, 1975, Fifth

District President Richard Haugness presented the charter. The name chosen for the new lodge was Elvedal, meaning "river valley" in Norwegian for a Wisconsin Rapids area located lodge.

Elvedal regularly met the third Thursday of the month, September through December and March through May. In January and February, it met the third Saturday morning. The lodge rented a large community space in a senior apartment building for their meetings. During the summer months we would schedule a family picnic and a bus trip. Our chartered bus trips have included Ten Chimneys and Stoughton, Norskedalen (Coon Valley), Vesterheim, Door County, Mount Horeb and Little Norway, Old World Wisconsin, Folklore Village, Trempleau County Norwegian Historical Tour, and the Swedish American Museum in Minnesota.

Lodge gatherings typically included a brief business meeting, a program ranging from cultural/heritage interest, local cultural diversity, lodge member trips to youth camper experiences, and end with social coffee time. December Julefest includes a social hour, catered dinner, traditional Saint Lucia processional, nisse visit, and holiday musical program. At the Syttende Mai celebration we would host area high school foreign exchange students at our catered meal social event.

Elvedal has a youth group (Barne Norsk Klubb) for ages 5-12 and sponsors youth heritage campers to Masse Moro where a lodge member is the camp rosemaling instructor. Special interest small groups form as interest dictates such as readers and knitters. We have a library of Scandinavian reference books, novels by Norwegian authors, and Norwegian themed novels housed on a custom member-made roll-out bookshelf housed in our storage closet.

Elvedal published a bi-monthly newsletter and an annual directory to keep members informed and aid in recruitment. The lodge directory is invaluable as a planning tool for the year. It includes a list of officers, committees, Sons of Norway

fact page, membership directory, calendar of events, past-presidents page, field staff contact and contact information page for S/N headquarters and 5th District officers.

For fundraisers we currently hold an annual garage sale, brat fry, and silent auction. This allows us to pay the rent, provide programs, support appropriate causes, and support our youth campers and convention delegates.

Elvedal began 2025 looking forward to celebrating our 50th Anniversary of supporting the Norwegian Heritage of its members and the fraternal goals of Sons of Norway.

The History of Myrmarken 609

In fall 1987 the New Vision Gallery at the Marshfield Clinic held an exhibition of "Folk Arts of Norway", providing the opportunity to discover if there might be an interest in a Sons of Norway lodge in the area. Enough people signed the list to encourage Anne-Grethe Cook and Field Staff Representative Sigrid Kahoun to search for others to form a steering committee.



In May the committee made up of Dick and Anne-Grethe Cook, Bernie and Marcia Benning, Don and Dorothy Berg, pastor Carmen Peterson along with Sigrid and Jack Kahoun met to begin months of concentrated work and commitment to form a lodge in Marshfield.

Myrmarken means "marsh field" in Norwegian and quite appropriately was selected as the name of the newly formed lodge. Myrmarken Lodge 609 was instituted on October 16, 1988 by District President Clare Almquist, at a ceremony in the Faith Lutheran Church, attended by several District Officers and International Director Cy Wittrock. Members were initiated by District Vice President Jon Grinde and officers installed by Director Wittrock.

Months of additional hard work paid off when 127 member names were listed on the charter presented by President Almquist on January 15, 1989! Myrmarken's first President, Dick Cook, was Master of Ceremony at a dinner attended by over 130 members and guests. A children's dance group performed, and over 30 new members were initiated as part of the program. International Director Jim Holms brought greetings from the International Board and acquainted the new lodge with the relationship of the local lodges to the District and International Lodge.

History of Elvedal, Myrmarken, and Vennligfolk - continued. . .

Myrmarken was on its way. The lodge met regularly the 2nd Saturday of the month January through December (except July) at 9:00 a.m. at Scotty's Pizza & Chicken in Marshfield. The Lodge began 2025 looking forward to celebrating our 37th anniversary supporting the Norwegian Heritage of its members and the fraternal goals of Sons of Norway. Many young people who expressed an interest in their heritage in the past may very well become our leaders of the future in determining how we can best preserve the Norwegian traditions as the seed has been planted.

The History of Vennligfolk 5-627

For the past year this newsletter and other Vennligfolk communications have used a banner which reads:

"Celebrating 30 Years of Vennlig!"

Vennligfolk 5-627 officially became chartered on Leif Erikson Day October 9, 1994. The banner calls attention to Vennligfolk's 30th year as an official Sons of Norway Lodge. The lodge will close out this year for commemoration in October by hosting the always popular cultural touchstone, the Stoughton Dancers.



LODGE BEGINNINGS

In the early 1990s, Sigrid Kahoun from the Wisconsin Rapids lodge, asked Jan Flatoff if she would like to help start a Sons of Norway lodge in the Stevens Point/Plover area? Due to the time constraints of raising her young children, Jan declined. Later, in 1993, Doug and Diana Strommen met Sigrid at the first Portage County Cultural Festival in Stevens Point. They told Sigrid they wanted to help start a club. Announcements were made in area Lutheran church bulletins, and an initial informational meeting was scheduled for July 1993 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stevens Point. About fifteen people attended in addition to Sigrid. A steering committee of six people resulted.

When no one agreed to lead the steering committee, Sigrid Kahoun asked for someone willing to have mail delivered to their house. Jan Flatoff figured, "at least I could do that." Jan said it was to her great surprise when SON mailings started to arrive everything was addressed to her as "Steering Committee Chairperson!"

Other Steering Officers were Diana Strommen, Financial Secretary; Doug Strommen, Publicity; Julie Horan, Treasurer; and Cindy Larson Kluck and Milo Harpstead to round out the committee. Jan Flatoff also took on being the Secretary, taking notes, and sending meeting and minutes info to everyone. Doug Strommen later agreed to become Chair and eventually became the lodge's first President.

A minimum of 40 members were needed to form a lodge. Eventually 42 "friendly folks" signed up and a first meeting and chartering smorgasbord celebration was held at UW-Stevens Point on Oct. 9, 1994 - Leif Erikson Day! With the aid of Sigrid Kahoun and her husband, Jack, Vennligfolk 5-627 Sons of Norway lodge was formed!

VENNLIGFOLK TODAY

Of the original 42 Charter members, seven are still active members in the Lodge: Jan Flatoff, Jane Gjevere, Birdie Granum, Lois Hagen, Cindy Kluck, Nancy Schroeder, and Louise Lang.

Vennligfolk Lodge meets the second Sunday of the month at 5 PM September through December and then April and May. During the winter months of January thru March, meetings are still held on the second Sunday of the month but start at 1PM. The lodge originally held meetings in the lower level of the Plover Public Library for 20 years and moved to St Pauls United Methodist Church in February 2015 gaining better ADA access, meeting, kitchen, and storage space.

Doug Strommen was First Lodge Presidenten 1994 to 1996; Milo Harpstead Lodge Presidenten 1996 to 2009; Carl Rasmussen Lodge Presidenten 2010-2014; and Susan Morton Lodge Presidenten 2015 to Present.

Norwegian Princess Off to Australia

It has recently been revealed that Norway's Princess Ingrid Alexandra will be doing her university studies at St. Andrew's College in Sydney, Australia starting in August. Her schooling plans include a three-year Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations and political economy studies. The 21-year-old plans to live on campus, to best integrate into university life.

The princess follows in the footsteps of her mother, Crown Princess Mette-Marit, who also spent time studying abroad in Australia when she was a high school student. Princess Ingrid is second in line of succession to the Norwegian throne after her father.

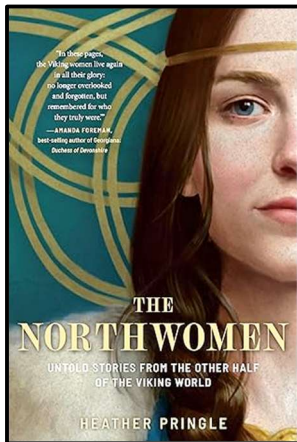
photo credit: Ida Bjørnvik, the Royal Court



The Northwomen

Untold Stories From the Other Half of the Viking World

Author: Heather Pringle
review by Lynn Rasmussen



This book is tailored for the lay reader with an interest in Viking history and a specific curiosity about the roles of women in that era.

In *The Northwomen*, journalist Heather Pringle searches for women in the Viking world and talks to expert archaeologists

who are looking at new and old evidence to rewrite what has been "established fact" for so long about the Viking world. Pringle has a true gift for bringing history to life. This was such a readable book, and I loved the format of starting each section with a story that pertained to the information that follows.

Heather Pringle made the history of Viking women feel intriguing. There were several parts where I eagerly flew through pages, hoping to find what happened next in the mystery of how the Vikings did what they did and who the Viking women were. Pringle does an amazing job here, helping to tell the stories that archaeologists are discovering in ways that laypeople can understand, bringing us into the world of explorers, traders, artisans, raiders, and sorceresses. and when (and if) they might have held power in that world.

It was astonishing to discover the amount of work women did to weave sails and clothes necessary for the Viking expeditions. That actually required the most work of any aspect of the raids, including building the ships! It took years of women work hours to provide sails for a fleet. Without their work there would not have been any Viking era. And, of course, that was not their only role, often being mothers, wives, overseeing households and making meals to name a few at the same time.

I also appreciated that Pringle does not gloss over the cruelty of the Vikings. The terror and violence inflicted on others was honestly shocking at times, and, as Pringle herself says, "ignoring such horrors is an injustice to those who experienced them." Some Nordic ancestors were not just explorers seeking to grow their lands and wealth; they were pillagers who murdered, tormented, and trafficked to get what they wanted and to show and cultivate their great power.

While Pringle is not an archaeologist or Viking scholar, her interviews with experts and reliance on archaeological reports provide a comprehensive collection of the current knowledge about Viking women. It is evident that she has a passion for ensuring that women in history are not forgotten. Her usage of such a wide variety of resources provides a well-rounded and thorough experience. I most certainly recommend this book. Enjoy.



Sentinels of The Door

In April the Door County Maritime Museum in Sturgeon Bay announced the opening of an exciting new exhibit called, **"Sentinels of The Door."** The exhibit celebrates the rich history of the US Coast Guard and predecessor services on the Door Peninsula from Alexander Hamilton petitioning for the creation of the "Cutter Service" in 1790 to today's US Coast Guard City status for Sturgeon Bay.

The exhibit includes a tribute to the Coast Guard service of Gene Gislason, a Washington Island and Door County native with Scandinavian heritage. Gislason was awarded the Silver Star, "For outstanding heroism as Commanding Officer of the USS LCI-94 (Landing Craft Infantry), while landing assault troops in Normandy" on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

In her Baileys Harbor Lighthouse presentation to Vennligfolk, April 13, Lynn Rasmussen recounted how her father Elmer Sorensen, also from Washington Island, served as chief engineer on the LCI-94 with Gislason at the helm on D-Day.



Gislason display at DCMM



LCI-94 at D-Day 1944, Print on display at DCMM; original 9'X12' mural at Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT,

The Restauration Departs from Stavanger July 4, 2025

On July 4, 2025, a replica of *the Restauration*, will depart from Stavanger Norway exactly 200 years after the original ship sometimes called the “*Norwegian Mayflower*,” left from the same port. The event will be celebrated with several activities, speeches, and cultural experiences. At 12:45 p.m., the ship will set sail and waved off by Norway’s King Harald and Queen Sonja. The journey will commemorate the 53 emigrants who bravely left Norway then, while raising awareness of the hardships that people still face today as they search for freedom and a better life.

The sloop plans to arrive in New York Harbor on October 9, 2025, Leif Erikson Day and, also Vennligfolk’s 31st Charter Anniversary! In the years following 1825, over one third of Norway’s population relocated to the United States. Today, nearly 5 million Americans proudly claim Norwegian ancestry. A Vennligfolk program on the *Restauration Then and Now* will be presented by Patti Rous on Nov 9 at 5 p.m.



RASPBERRY DELIGHT BARS

Shared at Midtsommer by Lynn Rasmussen – Recipe by Request

1 ½ cups flour
¾ cup softened butter`
¼ cup powdered sugar
2 TBSP milk
1 cup raspberry jam
2 eggs
1 ½ cups sugar
2 tsp vanilla
6 TBSP melted butter
2 ½ cups of flaked coconut
1 cup chopped nuts

INSTRUCTIONS:

-Mix flour, sugar and butter until crumbly. Mix in milk. Pat in 8 x 12 greased pan.
-Refrigerate at least 1 hour. This can be prepared ahead of time
-Spread **1 cup raspberry jam** on top of base
-Beat **2 eggs** until thick and add **1 ½ cup sugar**, beat well and add **2 tsp vanilla** and **6 TBSP melted butter**.
-Stir in **2 ½ cups of flaked coconut** and **1 cup chopped nuts**
-Spread this mixture over jam.
-Bake 30-40 minutes at 350 degrees or until done
-Remove from oven, let cool on rack and refrigerate before cutting

a little in English...

Royal photographers in Queen Sonja Art Gallery

The Royal Family is Norway's most photographed family. In February 2024 Her Majesty the Queen opened a new exhibition at the Queen Sonja Art Stall showing snapshots from 1890 to 1990 with The Royal Family themselves as photographers.

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit, and Princess Astrid, Mrs. Ferner [King Harald’s sister] were also present at the opening.

Stories about Norway

The exhibition “Royal Photographers – Snapshots from 1890 to 1990” shows the Royal Family’s own photographs from Queen Maud and King Haakon all the way up to today’s royal couple.

Unique objects, cameras, interiors and not least about 300 photos convey personal moments and important photographic history. Changing technology and techniques define the passing of time, while motifs and activities are repeated through generations in an almost timeless way.

The photographs of The Royal Family may seem like they belong to any other Norwegian family. Yet they stand out significantly. Their family stories are not private, like others’, but also become stories about Norway.

litt på norsk...

Kongelige fotografer i Dronning Sonja KunstStall

Kongefamilien er Norges mest fotograferte familie. I februar 2024 åpnet Hennes Majestet Dronningen en ny utstilling i Dronning Sonja KunstStall som viser øyeblikksbilder fra 1890 til 1990 med De kongelige selv som fotografer.

Deres Kongelige Høyheter Kronprins Haakon og Kronprinsesse Mette-Marit, og Prinsesse Astrid, fru Ferner var også til stede ved åpningen.

Historier om Norge

Utstillingen “Kongelige fotografer – øyeblikksbilder fra 1890 til 1990” viser Kongefamiliens egne fotografier fra Dronning Maud og Kong Haakon og helt opp til dagens kongepar.

Unike gjenstander, kameraer, interiører og ikke minst om lag 300 bilder formidler personlige øyeblikk og viktig fotohistorie. Skiftende teknologi og teknikk definerer tiden som går, samtidig gjentas motiver og aktiviteter gjennom generasjoner på en nesten tidløs måte.

Fotografiene til De kongelige kan virke som de tilhører en hvilken som helst annen norsk familie. Likevel skiller de seg vesentlig ut. Deres familiehistorier er ikke private, som andres, men blir også historier om Norge.



Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627
Carl Rasmussen, Editor
3136 Dans Ave
Stevens Point, WI 54481

**August Dessert Social at Schmeckle
Reserve Visitor Center
Thurs Aug 14 at 6 PM**
**Get to Know Elvedal, Myrmarken &
Vennligfolk
Sunday Sept 14 at 5 PM**



Help Spread the Sunshine! Our Lodge Sunshine Coordinator Bea Berg, asks if you hear of a member who has been ill, had surgery, a family circumstance, or something to celebrate, phone Bea at: [715-252-8853](tel:715-252-8853) or email to: beaberg96@gmail.com.



Takk and stay sunny!

Do you have an interesting program about Norway or Scandinavia? Know of a speaker with a great general interest topic? Please contact our lodge Program Director, Charlotte Hensler at: chensler@wi-net.com (715) 592-4916



Tusen takk



In Remembrance

Conrad A. Favor, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, passed away on Sunday, May 11, 2025, at Aspirus Plover Hospital after a sudden health emergency at the age of 90. His eldest daughter and her family were at his side.

Conrad and wife Rachel were long-time members of Vennligfolk and enjoyed being involved with The Sons of Norway and made many friends. A celebration of life will be held at a future date. Shuda Funeral Home and Trinity Lutheran Church will be assisting with the arrangements. A full obituary can be viewed at the Shuda Funeral Home website: <https://www.shudafuneral.com/>.

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 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 10th of the even-numbered months. Send it to Carl Rasmussen at 3136 Dans Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by e-mail addressed to: Vennligblad@gmail.com; Takk *Carl Rasmussen, Editor*