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Trustee (2021-2023)
Ron Hensler.

Trustee (2020-2022)
Tom Johnson

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 29 Issue 3

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

MAI OG JUNI 2022

Fra presidenten:



Wow! Since my last Presidenten Letter, we have enjoyed two fantastic presentations at our March and April lodge meetings. In March, member



Our lodge is starting to grow again. A big "Velkommen" goes to Karen Dorn, our newest member. Karen has been to several lodge meetings & activities and decided to join **Vennligfolk Lodge**.

"Mange takk" to our talented Karen Trzebiatowski! This spring Karen used

Jen Haas's son and daughter-in-law, Jed & Kendra, gave a heartfelt & inspirational program on Jed's battle with Cystic Fibrosis and his double lung transplant. In April, member Cindy Kluck took us to Norway through her program on the month long "dream trip" she and husband, Mark, took in 2019. From the comments I have received, I know our members and guests thoroughly enjoyed these wonderful programs.

Although our lodge does not have regular lodge meetings in the summer, we do have a couple of activities planned for the summer. First of all, you won't want to miss our Midsommer Picnic on Tuesday, June 21 (rain date June 23) at the beautiful South New Hope Church grounds in Nelsonville starting at 5:00 PM. Brats, buns, drinks, and service ware will be provided by the lodge. You can still sign up to bring food for Midsommer at our May 1 lodge meeting. Just a friendly reminder to bring generous portions of whatever food dish you sign up for. You know how much Scandinavians like to eat!

Our first Road Trip for the year is planned for Thursday, August 18 (rain date: Friday, August 19). We will be going to Judah Studios in Nelsonville, Scandi Hus in Scandinavia, and the Red Mill in Waupaca. Lunch will be at the Red Mill. All of these places are quaint and have wonderful shopping opportunities. Watch for information on this Road Trip in the next issue of Vennligblad.

her knitting talents to make eleven little Easter chicks to be given to some of our lodge members. **Vennligfolk** officers had the privilege of delivering these colorful, cheery chicks to some members at Easter time. There are a few pictures of some of the recipients of the chicks in this issue of Vennligblad.

Did you know there is now a Norwegian bakery in town? Julie Faust has started her own bakery called "Julie's Norske Bakeri & Bites." Although she doesn't have her own building, you can see Julie and buy some of her delicious bakery every



Thursday at the Mission Coffee House in Plover (located in the old Shopko building) from 9AM to 2PM. You can also order

baked goods through Facebook: Julie's Norske Bakeri & Bites, or through her website:

<https://juliesnorskebakeri.square.site/>. Better yet, you all can meet Julie on Sunday, September 11th, 2022 at our **Vennligfolk Lodge** meeting. In September Julie will share how she has lived and traveled in Norway and how she learned to bake all these delicious Norwegian foods.

Hilsen, Susan Morton

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

Mai

Ozz Hagen-4
Mother's Day-8
 Kress Williamson-14
syttende mai-17
Memorial Day-30

May						
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				

Juni

Father's Day U.S. – 19
 Louise Lang – 24

June						
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		

Morsdag (Mother's Day) is celebrated in Norway each year on the 2nd Sunday in February.



Farsdag (Father's Day) is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in November in Norway.

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???

Sunday May 1st - "Not Just For Men" Women are engaging more and more in hobby arts previously thought of as "just for men."



Vennligfolk member, Jerry Trzebiatowski will share stories and slides showing women working at their crafts at various classes and events he has attended over the years. These crafts include casting iron, welding metal sculpture, and forging knife blades. Many of the crafts have a Nordic connection. **(NOTE:** Our May meeting will be one week earlier than our regular, allowing families to celebrate Mother's Day May 8. **Servers:** Donna Van Dreser, Charlotte Hensler, Lois Hagen; **Marshall:** Mark Hansen; **Table Décor:** Mark Hansen

Portage County Cultural Fest Cancelled until Next Year



Midtsommer Tuesday June 21 at South New Hope Church. Set up at 4:30 pm with the meal beginning shortly after 5:00 pm. We will enjoy a potluck meal, a game or two of Kubb, and an outdoor bonfire (weather permitting). There will be a food sign-up at our May 1 meeting. **Directions:** Take Highway 10 east from Stevens Point to Highway 161 to County Road T and go north (left) on T for approximately 0.7 mile to the church. Also, check out: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthNewHope/> Rain Date Thursday June 23.



Julie's Norske Bakeri & Bites" Sunday, September 11

Local Norski baker Julie Faust will share how she lived and traveled in Norway and learned to bake all her delicious Norwegian foods. See:

<https://juliesnorskebakeri.square.site/>



District 5 Sons of Norway 2022 Convention

Idun Lodge, Madison will host the regional convention for the 45 Lodges of District 5 from six states **June 15-19, 2022**. Vennligfolk will have three members Susan & Arno Morton and Tom Johnson attend as voting delegates. Other members can attend and participate in the many cultural activities.

District 5



International Meeting of SONS OF NORWAY August 31 to September 1, 2022 in Minneapolis, MN. The convention will gather member lodges and districts from the United States, Canada, & Norway.



Hurra, Hurra, Hurra – Happy Syttende Mai 2022!

Show your Norwegian pride. Consider inviting a friend or family member to join the fun of Norwegian National Constitution Day (May 17) and our lodge this month.



An Update – To Help Spread the Sunshine!

Please update your Lodge Directory to phone Bea Berg, Sunshine Coordinator to **715-544-0539**. Call or email Bea if you hear about a member who has been ill, had surgery, a death in their family or, something to celebrate. Bea's email: beaberg@charter.net. Mange Takk

Vennligfolk in Pictures



Kendra & Jedidiah Hass share their inspiring story of hope, faith, and love the result of Jedidiah's life with Cystic Fibrosis at our March 13 meeting



Carl Rasmussen(L), Bea Berg, & Char Hensler help set-up Vennligfolk's appreciation meal at St Paul's UMC International Night Bistro March 16



Cindy Kluck shares her 2019 travel experience to Norway complete with visits to cousins, stops at ancestral homes, and thrilling scenery at our April 10 meeting.



Bistro night Nordic dessert table!

Smorgasbord with Norwegian meatballs and potatoes and a variety of open-face sandwiches



Remember Show Your Colors Syttende Mai – May 17



Lori & Don Johnson

Several Members received an April home visit from lodge officers that included a gift of a hand-knit "Norwegian" Easter Chick made by Karen Trzebiatowski



Rosie Poulsen



Birdie Granum



Nancy Schroeder



Louise Lang



Jane Gjevre

Meet: Milo Harpstead “My Life Recounted” (Part 2)

9. Marriage and family. During my years in the Twin Cities I became active in TWIN CITIES LUTHERAN YOUNG ADULTS (TCLYA). They were active in water skiing in the summer and snow skiing in the winter. I remained active with them on weekends. It was there that I met Ruth Boettcher in 1961 who would become my life’s soulmate. Ruth was from an Iowa farm and an active downhill skier. We were married in June, 1963. For our honeymoon we spent 6 weeks in Europe and traveled through many countries in rented cars and stayed in hostels overnight. We had not yet made contact with Ruth's family in Germany, but we spent time with my family in Norway and toured that beautiful country. We flew from Glasgow Scotland to Belfast, Ireland and then took a train to visit a family in Dublin whom I had traveled parts of Europe with in 1957. Though they were from Holland they took us on a car trip to see the Irish countryside.

We had two children, Karl and Ida, and each of them have four children. Ruth passed away in October 2018. We were married over 55 years.

Trinity Lutheran Church has always been our home church in Stevens Point. We established a current church to attend when we were abroad and visited others both Catholic and Protestant on our travels.

10. Foreign Assignments. In 1968 I was hired by the UW-Madison College of Agriculture to join their team-teaching Soil Science at the University of Ife in Nigeria. Ruth and our young children went with me as well. At the end of the first year, we were granted six weeks of rest and relaxation which we spent traveling Europe as a family. We started in Rome, Italy, flew to Switzerland, rented a car and drove to Germany where we visited friends and Ruth’s family in northern Germany. We continued driving via Denmark and Sweden to my family in Norway. For me, this was already my third trip to Norway.

On the way back to our home in Nigeria we stopped in Morocco and toured parts there with a rental car. Near the end of our second year in Nigeria I went to



the University of Ghana for a few days as an external examiner for graduating seniors in Soil Science. During our two years in Nigeria the civil war there ended and traveling became easier. We were very content there in Nigeria. Karl even attended pre-kindergarten there.

Ten years later, in 1979 I joined up with a summer program for UW Stevens

Point College of Natural Resources students in the Black Forest region of southwest Germany. Ruth, Karl, and Ida came along and initially went to visit our friends the Loechenhoffs about 200 miles away. In a borrowed second car from our friends, Ruth drove with our children down to the medieval castle where my program was centered. We took weekend trips to various places such as Lichtenstein and returned the car later back to the Loechenhoffs.

We took advantage of leading UWSP International Programs across the Pacific and the Atlantic. We led student groups of about 30 each on typically four-month Semester Abroad studies in Europe, Southeast Asia (Malaysia and Thailand), the South Pacific (Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand), and East Europe after my retirement, to Hungary and Poland. In all Ruth and I went to all 50 states and 50 foreign countries if you break up Great Britain. Our children were with us on all of these adventures except the last two when they were beyond primary school.

11. Retirement. Ruth and I both retired in late 1992. I have maintained an association with the College of Natural Resources and in 1994 I was asked to join a team there on a three-week assignment to Kenya to study the food production practices. It was funded because an effort was being made to improve local diets so that treatment for AIDS would be more effective. Also, we used the opportunity to encourage students to come to Wisconsin for graduate studies. That was my last professional assignment, though. Ruth and I still continued to travel internationally.

Meet: Milo Harpstead. . . continued

In fall 1999, we joined an entry tour of the UWSP Semester Abroad for a month in Eastern Europe. We visited the horrific concentration camps at Dachau and Auschwitz and retained a lasting impression of them. When the students began their classes, Ruth and I went up to Gulcz, Poland, the Sister City of Stevens Point to visit people there. My grandfather on my mother's side came from that area (Poznan or, Posen in German) with his mother and siblings to Iowa in 1873 on the sailing ship, "Carl." His father had arrived earlier to establish a home for his family. We were unable to trace any of my ancestors there. We spent time in Warsaw and took a day trip to see Chopin's home and to visit a friend of my brother, Dale. He had been a graduate student at Michigan State. On this trip we also visited with Ruth's relatives in Germany and mine in Norway. In October 2006, we joined a local tour group for three weeks in China. It was led by George Kung who is from China and is also retired from the UWSP faculty. We traveled China widely by bus, ship, and air. It was a wonderful trip. I came home with pneumonia, but I soon recovered. The air pollution in Beijing became a reality for me.

12. International humanitarianism. I am active in the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners program as was Ruth until 10 months before her passing. The head office is in Nelson Hall on the UWSP campus. For about 20 years prior to 2020 (due to the COVID-19) we went to Nicaragua for 10 days during the winter to fit used glasses, provided by the Lions International, primarily to the poor from children to senior citizens. We generally fit glasses to well over 2,000 individuals. This activity gave us a rewarding feeling, and I get to practice Spanish that I continue to study. We have hosted many visitors from Nicaragua to our home.

13. Published writings. My most rewarding writing has been the first four editions of *Soil Science Simplified* published by Iowa State University. A fifth edition has been published by Blackwell Publishers.

When we were on assignment in Nigeria, I took on a project as a professional activity to study eleven selected soils to a depth of five feet from the very arid north to the tropical rain forest near the Atlantic on

the south. I classified them according to the USDA system which is recognized internationally. This study was published in *Soil Science* in 1973. I have published a couple of other professional articles.

An article with pictures about my job as a section hand for the rails for Twin City Transit was published in *MINNEGAZETTE* in Summer 2003. I have also had a few articles published in antique car magazines.



Milo with his 1939 Chrysler

14. Hobbies, recreation and organizations. We bought a 60-acre hobby farm near Polonia, Wisconsin with some buildings in 1973. It is there that I continue to restore antique cars and maintain tractors and machinery. Recently, I donated 22 of those acres to UWSP as a study area. It's known as "Milo Acres."

Ruth and I were downhill skiers into our late 70s when it seemed less safe anymore. We were also active square dancers.

We were active in the Stevens Point Old Car Club and in the Horseless Carriage Club of the Fox River Valley and went on many tours. We always entered an antique car in the Iola Car Show. I have been a long-time member of the board of the Portage County Historical Society and continue in that role.

We were both charter members of Vennligfolk Lodge and later I served as President for 13 years, 1996 through 2009.

I remain active with the Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists and the Wisconsin Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Hilsen, Milo

Recipe: Lingonberry Cake

This festive cake will put some zip in your Syttende Mai celebration. Tangy-sweet lingonberry jam brings together fluffy cake and crunchy streusel, pairing well with coffee, tea or brunch.

Ingredients:

For the Cake

Scant 2 cups flour
2/3 cup sugar
1 Tbsp. baking powder
Scant 2/3 cup unsalted butter
1 egg
3/4 cup lingonberry preserves



For the Streusel Topping

2/3 cup oatmeal
3 Tbsp. butter
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla sugar (or 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract)

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 400°F.
Combine flour, sugar, and baking powder then cut in the butter with pastry blender.
Add the egg and mix well.
Spread into a greased 8" x 12" pan.
Spread the preserves over the batter.
Mix streusel topping together using a pastry cutter or two knives and sprinkle over lingonberry preserves.
Bake 25-30 minutes, until golden. Cool in the pan.



Preserving the Sámi Language

February 6 marks the celebration of Sámi National Day. This is the date when the first Sámi congress was held in 1917 in Trondheim, Norway. As part of the celebration for this special day, Gunnar Wilhelmsen, the Mayor of Tromsø, made a call to Norway's larger cities and challenged them to "increase their use of the Sámi language on signs for public buildings." Wilhelmsen specifically called out Oslo's mayor, due to the fact that "Oslo is the only city in Norway with more Sámi than Tromsø, so the challenge goes first to Raymond Johansen."

The Sámi are an important part of Norwegian culture. Wilhelmsen wants to ensure that accommodations are being made to encourage and respect Sámi speakers in the public sector. Fortunately, there has been a spread of Sámi language nationwide. In many parts of Northern Norway, road signs have been updated to include Sámi.

Mange Takk to Vennligfolk

Sat, Apr 2, 2022
To Lynn Rasmussen

This is sadly overdue. We left for Florida the day after the Vennligfolk Bistro meal and we were gone for ten days. I meant to get this off to you beforehand.



I can't thank you enough for the wonderful dinner you, Carl, and your group put on for the Bistro. It ran so smoothly, the food was scrumptious, and the ladies were such a big help. It was one meal I didn't have to work like crazy to get this accomplished. Thank you so much!!

Stephanie White
Bistro Meal Coordinator, St Paul's UMC

Påskekrim and the Milk Carton Mysteries



Image Credit: Ole Martin Buene/Tine via nationen.no

It wouldn't be an Easter holiday in Norway without the tradition of reading gripping crime novels. This unusual combination dates back to 1923, when publisher Gyldendal pulled a media stunt to boost spring book sales. The ploy worked, and a national ritual was born.

Many Norwegians head to the *hytte* (cabin) over Easter break, and their laid-back vacation days pair well reading by the fire. Each spring, various publishers release special collections of novellas called Påskekrim along with many full-length novels. Other media channels have followed suit, producing crime radio plays, tv shows, films, and podcasts.

Since 1997, TINE dairy cooperative has printed family-friendly whodunit comics on their milk cartons for Norwegians to solve over breakfast during Easter break. Private detective Ulf Ulvheim (*en ulv* – a wolf, naturally) has been a recurring character in the Easter-related detective strips. Famous crime writers such as Jo Nesbø, Anne Holt and Gunnar Staalesen and others have authored the storylines. As of 2021, the milk mysteries went digital, to the consternation of many citizens.

Whether you are visiting a *hytte*, reading mysteries, or enjoying milk, *God Påske!* Happy (belated) Easter!

a little in English... Tips for New Norwegians

Get yourself a dog and you'll be integrated in no time.

What is the best way to integrate in Norway, a man asked me recently.

I thought a bit before I answered: Get yourself a dog!

I would call myself reasonably well integrated. Even my first name, Noman, only needs an R before I become a real Norwegian.

I love Christmas, May 17, waffles, Kvikk Lunsj [candy bars], democracy, Munch, bunads, and equality. But I've never had a thing for dogs. In Pakistani culture, dogs are used for hunting and guarding. That's it. They are not pets that sit on your sofa, who are pampered on the train by total strangers and stuffed into various designer bags like a trophy.

Today my children are 11 years old. They are twins and have been whining for a dog for as long as I can remember. After the long pressure, I finally wagged my tail and said yes.

Two months ago, we got a new family member. The wonderful Mocca. Mocca is a social magnet. After corona closed all of Norway, I have taken a lot of walks with Mocca.

Oh my goodness, so many people want to meet her:

"Oh, she's so cute, what breed is she, what is her name, can I pet her, can I say hi, where do you live ...?" The conversation is underway.

And just like that, you make new friends and acquaintances. Lovely. We have lived here for almost four years, but I have talked with eight neighbors, tops. Since March, I've talked to at least 80. Beat that!

Some immigrants believe that Norwegians are like a thermos. Cold outside, but warm inside. You just have to find a way to talk to them. I know that now.

So are you new to Norway, want to learn Norwegian, make Norwegian friends or are simply craving some company? Borrow a dog, or get your own. A dog provides a lot of company, and especially: You get to open the thermos.

litt på norsk... Triks for nye nordmenn

Få deg hund og bli integrert på en-to-tre.

Hva er den beste måten å integrere seg på i Norge, spurte en mann meg nylig.

Jeg tenkte meg litt om før jeg svarte: Få deg hund!

Jeg vil kalle meg rimelig godt integrert. Til og med fornavnet mitt, Noman, trenger bare en R før jeg blir en ekte nordmann.

Jeg elsker jula, 17 mai, vafler, Kvikk lunsj, demokratiet, Munch, bunad, og likestilling. Men hund har jeg aldri helt hatt sansen for. I den pakistanske kulturen brukes hund til jakt og vakt. Dermed basta. De er ikke kjæledyr som sitter i sofaen din, blir dullet med på trikken av vilt fremmede og stappes oppi diverse designervesker som en trofé.

I dag er barna mine 11 år. De er tvillinger og har mast om hund så lenge jeg kan huske. Etter det langvarige presset logret jeg til slutt med halen og sa ja.

For to måneder siden fikk vi et nytt familiemedlem. Fineste Mocca. Mocca er en sosial magnet. Etter at korona stengte hele Norge har jeg være mye ute med Mocca.

Og du verden så mange mennesker som vil hilse på henne:

«Å så søt hun var, hvilke rase er det, hva heter hun, kan jeg klappe, kan jeg hilse på henne, hvor bor dere ...». Samtalen er i gang.

Vips får man nye venner og bekjente. Herlig. Vi har bodd her i snart fire år, men jeg har toppen snakket med åtte naboer. Siden mars har jeg snakket med minst 80. Slå den du!

Noen innvandrere mener at nordmenn er som en termos. Kalde utenpå, men varme inni. Du må bare finne en måte å komme i snakk med dem. Det vet jeg nå.

Så er du ny i Norge, vil lære deg norsk, få norske venner eller rett og slett er selskapsyk? Lån en hund, eller få deg en egen. Det er masse selskap i en hund, og ikke minst: Du får åpnet termoskorken.



Mubashir & Mocca



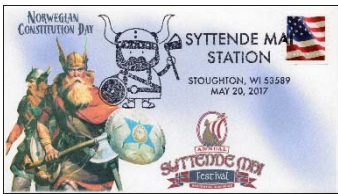
Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627
 Carl Rasmussen, Editor
 3136 Dans Ave
 Stevens Point, WI 54481 USA

“Not Just For Men” May 1
 Jerry Trzebiatowski, presenter

Midtsommer June 21
 5PM South New Hope 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.



Support Tubfrim. As you receive mail with unique stamps cut the postage off leaving a ¼ inch boarder of paper. Bring your stamps to the next Vennligfolk meeting.

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. 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

What is the Sons of Norway Foundation and what does it do?

The Sons of Norway Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was established in 1966 to help provide assistance to Sons of Norway Members, Lodges, and their greater communities. The Foundation is tax-exempt from federal and state income tax meaning that donations to the Sons of Norway Foundation from individuals and companies are tax-deductible.

The Sons of Norway Foundation currently offers 16 different education scholarships and six grant types that support our mission to positively affect the lives of our members. The overwhelming majority of the \$11.8 million dollars in foundation assets are held in endowed funds, meaning the initial gift amount is invested and interest income from the scholarship fund can be used for scholarships in perpetuity. Learn more about the SON Foundation at the SofN website: <https://www.sofn.com/foundation/>

Make 2022 a Year of Contagious Enthusiasm!



What's the **BEST** part of your Sons of Norway membership? Share it with those you invite to join us. Whether you have a passion for baking your family's favorite traditional Norwegian dishes, love travel tips, or have a favorite "don't miss" lodge activity, your enthusiasm will be contagious—in a GOOD way!

Tusen takk for being a Sons of Norway and Vennligfolk member!