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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 friends
Sons of Norway Lodge #5-627 for Central Wisconsin
Stevens Point, Whiting, and Plover

Volume 29 Issue 5

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

SEPTEMBER OG OKTOBER 2022

Fra presidenten:



I can't remember the last time my summer was as full and busy as the summer of 2022! With our California

grandkids (ages 3 and 6) staying with us for two months, and our three other grandchildren living just 10 minutes down the road, there wasn't a single day that was not full of energy and activities. We were regulars at the municipal pool, parks, playgrounds, Belt's, and King Cone. Since the children attended Vacation Bible School at our church, I was one of the helpers for that week. We even spent a weekend at Wisconsin Dells going to indoor and outdoor waterparks, eating at fun restaurants, and doing "touristy" shopping. Yes, I still am a bit tired, but I am so thankful that we were privileged to have had this fun Wisconsin summer with our young grandchildren.

During the summer of 2022, **Vennligfolk Lodge** lost two incredible members with the passing of Milo Harpstead and Donna Van Dreser. The last Vennligblad newsletter included information and writings about Milo. Now I want to talk about Donna. She was a woman of many talents - - wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, accomplished boater, traveler, reader, and lover of ice cream & all things Norwegian. In the January-February 2022 edition of Vennligblad, Donna did a write up for the "Introducing" page. She shared about growing up in a Norwegian family and her wonderful trip that she took to Norway where she connected with family. The last week of Donna's life, many of us were with

her at our Midtsommer Picnic and at Milo's funeral. I had conversations with Donna at both of these occasions. I remember her talking about her upcoming winter in Florida and a cruise she was going to take.

Donna also reminisced about teaching young children and the joy she had seeing the excitement in their little faces when they realized they could read. When her beloved husband, Roy, passed away, Donnas shared about how she took a missions trip to another country and how that helped her to get through the grieving process. Donna, like Milo, lived a very full life right up to the end. I will miss Donna's faithful attendance at our lodge meetings and activities whenever she wasn't wintering in Florida.

With summer drawing to a close, it is time to gear up for another year of Vennligfolk meetings and activities. There are plenty of opportunities for all of you to get involved in providing refreshments, serving as Marshalls, displaying décor for our table displays, serving on our Julefest committee, working on Cultural Skills, and faithfully attending our lodge meetings. Your officers appreciate your help and ideas in making Vennligfolk Lodge such a *great* lodge. Be sure to check out the "What's Happening" page of this newsletter to see the upcoming schedule of events for Vennligfolk Lodge.

See you on September 11th at our first lodge meeting.

Hilsen, Susan Morton

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

September

- Birdie Granum- 5
- LABOR DAY-5
- Mary Hansen 7
- Rich Somers - 14
- Nick Vertein - 22
- Nancy Schroeder- 25
- Francis Polson - 25
- Gordon Miller- 27

September						
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	

Oktober

- Bea Berg- 7
- VENNLIGFOLK - 9
- LEIF ERIKSON DAY – 9
- Barbara Aavang - 16
- Karen Clifford – 28

October						
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???

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 also: <https://juliesnorskebakeri.square.site/> Start time: 5PM



Servers: Sue Morton & Rita Johnson; Marshall: Tom Johnson; Table Décor:

"Not Just For Men" Sunday October 9



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. Start time: 5PM Servers: Kathy Clucas & Jen Haas Marshall: Arno Morton; Table Décor:

Exploring the Land of the Midnight Sun Sunday November 13



Lodge Member Patti Rous will share her June 2022 travel adventure of seven days in Norway's Lofoton Islands. Daughter, Sarah and her Norwegian husband, Anders were excellent tour planners and tour guides as they traveled about in their rented "el bil," (electric car)! A fantastic trip, for sure! Start time: 5PM Servers: Marshall: Table Décor:

Julefest Sunday December 11 Planning Committee has been formed. Watch this space for details in November. Offer to help with the event.

* * *

Midwest Viking Festival - Sept. 23-24, 2022 The Viking House grounds on the UW-Green Bay campus will be host a second Viking Festival in September. Viking festivals are celebrations of Scandinavian history and culture. The UWGB Viking House is based on meticulous research of the Viking-Age building traditions in Norway and used for educational hands-on learning. For more information about the Viking Festival view the following YouTube video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIky4Vzx4sY> Learn more about the UWGB Viking House at: <https://www.uwgb.edu/viking-house>

Northland Lutheran Church will hold their annual Norwegian Heritage Supper **Saturday October 15**. Serving times will be available later from the church at 715-445-2956. The church is located about nine mile north of Iola on Highway 49.

Myrmakren Lodge (Marshfield) will hold its Lutefisk Supper again on **Tuesday, October 18th** at the Eagles Club in Marshfield. More details will be shared as we learn them.



Help Spread the Sunshine! If you hear about a member who has been ill, had surgery, a death in their family or, something to celebrate. phone Bea Berg, Sunshine Coordinator at **715-544-0539**. or email Bea at: beaberg@charter.net. Mange Takk



Midtsommer 2022
at South New Hope Church



Patti Rous cuts her Bløtkake, a favorite cake of her son-in-law's family; Diane Beversdorf & Karen Clifford look on.



Tom & Rita Johnson & grandson Henry Johnson share a laugh



Great anticipation around the dessert table!



Lois Alfson with son Geoff and Lisa Alfson from Newton, WI



Oz Hagen, Karen Trzebiatowski & Donna Van Dreser



Brat Master Arno Morton with help from Kress Williamson



Kress & Cathy Williamson



Elaine Anderson, Jane Gjevre & guest Andrea Crane



Kathy Clucas with daughter Tori



Kathy Theige (L) & Char Hensler (R)



Don Johnson wore a frown, there was no Lutefisk to be found.

Meet: Gene Numsen . . . Part 1



In 1994 I took my first trip to Norway and following my return from that trip I joined Vennligfolk. I am now 83 years old—I don't know how that happened. In 1971, I moved to Stevens Point with my wife, Gena, and two preschool children, Maria and Paul. My children grew up here and moved away and started their families. My wife died in 2019. I had a career as a physician, initially at the UWSP Student Health Center when Don Johnson was the director, then to the Rice Clinic as a pediatrician, and from 1983 to my retirement in 2002 as a pediatrician in solo practice.

"I started out as a child" (to quote comedian, Jonathan Winters) and lived on a farm in southeast South Dakota near Alcester (population 500) in northern Union County. I am the oldest of four children. One sister became an octogenarian earlier this year and another sister is still a youngster at age 69 years. A younger brother died at age 63 years of coronary artery disease. My parents were farmers but never owned their farm land—we were tenant farmers--so I lived on four different farms during my first 18 years of life. Grades 1-6 (There was no kindergarten in the country schools.) were spent in a one-room school (Ludwig School, District 62) with around 20 students total in eight grades; Larry Olson was one of my classmates starting in the first grade and we remain friends now. My teachers were young, 19 or 20 years old and recent graduates of a teachers' college. They stayed only one or two years, often leaving teaching to marry a local farmer. Grades 7 and 8 were spent in the town school where I first experienced a male teacher, Alan Johnson, who was an excellent teacher. Grades 9-12 were at Alcester High School where I was a member of the graduating class of 1957. I was one of 36 students, the largest class (up to that time, anyway) in the school's history!

I didn't have a career plan but knew that I wanted to obtain a college education so I enrolled at South Dakota State College, now known as South Dakota State University. By my second year I decided upon medicine as a career and after three years of college I dropped out without a degree to enter medical school at the University of South Dakota; a Bachelor's degree was not required for admission to medical school at that time, although it is now. I was not the first in my family to obtain higher education. An older cousin graduated from nursing school and her sister earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Milo Harpstead earned his bachelor's degree from South Dakota State although he was sufficiently older than me that we did not attend the university at the same time.

After two years at USD School of Medicine (at that time USD was a two-year school only and all students transferred.) I transferred to Northwestern University in Chicago where I obtained my MD degree. During my senior year at Northwestern Gena and I met and we were married in 1968. I wanted the experience of living in New York City so I sought an internship there and spent 1964 to early 1966 at St. Vincent's Hospital until I was drafted into

the Navy during the Viet Nam war. I spent 2 years in the Navy as a general medical officer and was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, in Viet Nam with the Third Marine Division, and at the U.S. Navy Hospital at Bremerton, Washington.

I returned to St. Vincent's Hospital to complete my pediatric residency and then lived for two years in Chicago in Gena's old neighborhood of Brighton Park. I worked at Mile Square Health Center, a federally-funded clinic on the west side of Chicago not far from Chicago Stadium. I enjoyed the work but tired of the city and I thought that a 25-minute drive to work was too long and a waste of time. So, in 1971 we moved to Stevens Point.

My mother was interested in family history, her own and my father's, and I inherited her interest and her family records. I have a Norwegian grandmother and a Swedish grandmother. My other ancestors were German, or, so I thought at one time but more about that later.

My Norwegian great-grandfather was Ole Stene, Jr. The surname was once "Stensflotten", which became "Stene" and is sometimes spelled "Steen". He was born in Meldal, which is southwest of Trondheim and borders Orkdal. He came to the U.S. in 1871 and landed in Marquette, Michigan and traveled on to Ishpeming, Michigan where he lived until 1876. It is presumed that he worked in an iron mine in the Ishpeming area but I do not have any documentation of that. I also do not have any documentation of how he got to Marquette; did he land in Montreal and travel up the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes, or did he land in New York and travel via the Hudson River and the Erie Canal to Lake Erie through Lake Huron to Lake Superior? Or, other possibilities?

My Norwegian great-grandmother, Eli (later, "Ellen") Kvaalesmo (later "Kvaale", then changed to "Quall", and sometimes, "Quale".), came to Ishpeming from Orkdal in early 1872 and married Ole Stene in July 1872. I wonder if Ole and Eli knew each other in Norway; Ole's home farm was in northern Meldal and Eli's home farm was in southern Orkdal, and the two married a few months after Eli's arrival in Ishpeming so it is likely that they were acquainted in Norway.

Meet: Gene Numsen . . . continued

Three children were born to Ole and Eli while in Michigan, all girls, two of whom died in infancy and one lived to adulthood. In 1876 the family moved to Minneapolis where two boys were born, both of whom survived to adulthood. Next, the family moved to southeast Minnesota near Spring Grove where two girls were born, both of whom died in childhood (More about one of them, Marie, in the next paragraph). In 1881 the family moved again, their last move, to Dakota Territory where five more children (including my maternal grandmother, Karen, known as "Carrie", who was born in 1886) were born, all of whom survived to adulthood. South Dakota and North Dakota became states in 1889.

Marie, born February 12, 1881, in Minnesota died on January 12, 1888, in "The Children's Blizzard". Because of the deep snow and severe cold her body remained at home for 3 weeks before she was buried in the Roseni Lutheran Church cemetery. Due to the frozen earth and difficulty digging a grave, Marie and another child victim of the blizzard, a boy, were buried in the same grave. The children's blizzard that affected eastern Nebraska and Dakota Territory, western Minnesota, and northwest Iowa resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people; it began in mid-afternoon when many school children were on their way home from their rural schools and disproportionately affected a large number of children.

Read more of Gene's interesting family history and life story in the next Nov-Dec edition of Vennligblad!

In Memoriam Donna Van Dreser 1933-2022

Donna M. Van Dreser, age 88, of Stevens Point, died at home on June 25, 2022.



Donna was born on December 8, 1933 to the late John and Margaret (Pearson) Tranmel in Duluth, MN. She grew up in the Trump Coulee area of WI, attended the local grade schools, and graduated from Taylor High School in Taylor, WI. Donna subsequently attended the University of Eau Claire and graduated in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in teaching education. She earned a master's in science in 1972, emphasizing in teaching elementary education. In addition, she also earned a master's in education and professional development.

She married Roy J. Van Dreser on August 20, 1955, at First Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI. He preceded her in death in 2007.

Donna and Roy settled in several municipalities, where Donna taught elementary education. In 1966, they moved to the Stevens Point area where she began working for the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point Laboratory School. She later transferred to the Stevens Point Area Public School system where she taught elementary education at Washington School, Jefferson School, and McKinley School. Donna retired from teaching in 1995.

Donna will be remembered for her desire to excel and her enthusiasm for education. She was considered by many to

be a quiet driving force. In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening, boating, golfing, arts and crafts, and traveling. Donna also enjoyed wintering in Ruskin, FL where she established numerous community friendships. She was a member of St Paul's United Methodist Church, the Sons of Norway, and the United States Sail and Power Squadron. Family was extremely important to Donna, and she cherished spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include her children, Jann (Susan) Van Dreser of Pelican Lake, WI, John (Donna) Van Dreser of Apple Valley, MN, and Jill (Jeff) Jakusz of Pine City, MN; grandchildren, Michael (Julie) Van Dreser, Ashley (Brandon) Erickson, Jori Jakusz, Jake Jakusz, Tristan Van Dreser, and Jenna Van Dreser; and great grandchildren, Kiersten and Molly. She is also survived by her sister, Gloria Lind; nieces and nephews; and extended family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Roy; sister, Jean; and extended family.

A funeral service to celebrate her life was held on Thursday, July 7, 2022, at St Paul's United Methodist Church. Traditional burial was held on Friday, July 8 in Prairie View Cemetery in the Town of Hallie, WI.

Please make memorial donations to the Van Dreser Endowment (3400) or the Van Dreser Bay Education Endowment (8102) at UWSP Foundation, 2100 Main St, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Online condolences may be made at www.bostonfuneralhome.net.

Donna joined Vennligfolk lodge in 2009. A "Getting to Know" article written by Donna was included in the January-February 2022 edition of Vennligblad (pages 4-5).

Norwegian American Genealogical Center Announces Fall 2022 Class Schedule



The Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library (NAGC) has announced fall classes in Norwegian Genealogy. Three courses are on-line and a fourth will be held at the Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Genealogy Basics Online Sept 10 (Sat), 2022—10:00 a.m. to noon. The class is designed for those just starting genealogy research. Class topics will include genealogy best practices, using websites such as FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com, and resources available from historical societies and genealogical societies.

Cost: \$40 member & non-member (online)

Introduction to Norwegian Genealogy Sept 13 (Tues) & 15 (Thurs), 2022—10:00 a.m. to noon. This two-session class is for those who are familiar with genealogy basics but haven't dug into Norwegian genealogical research yet. The class will focus on Norwegian naming traditions, history and geography, along with strategies for reading old handwriting and finding where in Norway your ancestor may have originated.

Cost \$100 member/\$150 non-member (online)

Using Norwegian Farm Books (bygdebøker) Sat, Sept 24, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. to noon (**in person**) This class expands on the introductory class by exploring using Norwegian Farm History Books (bygdebøker) for clues for your genealogical research.

\$55 member/\$65 non-member (**in person in Madison**).

Exploring the Norwegian Digital Archives Sept 26 (Mon), 28 (Wed) & 30 (Fri), 2022 - 10:00 a.m. to noon. This three-session online class explores the wide variety of records and resources available in the Norwegian Digital Archives and how to find them. \$100 member/\$150 non-member.

Full details and registration information is available at the NAGC website: <https://www.nagcnl.org/>

Complete the course work, write up your research findings, and you will be on your way to earn a nifty Sons of Norway Genealogy Cultural Skills Pin!



“Troll” Comes to Netflix

Through the magic of Netflix, an ancient Nordic creature is scheduled to awaken and wreak havoc on our screens and imaginations. Director Roar Uthaug's much anticipated film, “Troll” is set to stream into homes sometime yet this year.

Born in Lørenskog, about 11 miles west of Oslo, Uthaug is best known as the director of 2018's “Tomb Raider” and “The Wave” (Norwegian “Bølgen”) a Norwegian thriller inspired by the real life Talfjord tsunami of 1934.

Of his newest cinematic venture, Uthaug muses, “Troll is an idea that has been developing in the back of my mind for over 20 years. To finally realize it with the enthusiastic and ambitious people at Netflix and Motion Blur is truly a dream come true. I can't wait to unleash this Norwegian monster on the world.”



According to Variety magazine, the film's eponymous creature is awakened from a deep sleep under the mountains of Dovre. Understandably crabby, it explodes out of the earth and pounds its way towards Oslo, destroying everything in its path.

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8XFlfjkm1s> for a teaser of the movie.

More Viking Age Longhouses Discovered

In December 2021, Norwegian archaeologists discovered a cluster of Viking longhouses using ground-penetrating radar (GPR). The discovery was made in Gjellestad in southeast Norway and is believed to be a main place in the late Nordic Iron Age. Viking longhouses were long, narrow buildings used for housing feasts, families, and even cattle or horses in the winter months.

The most notable part of the unearthing was the size of one of the longhouses. Archaeologist Lars Gustavsen stated, “The most striking discovery is a 60-meter (197-foot) long and 15-meter (49-foot) wide longhouse, a size that makes it one of the largest we know of in Scandinavia!” The archaeologists do not yet know how old the houses are or what exact function they served but they plan on doing excavations and dating exercises to answer these questions. Additionally, the radar found burial mounds nearby which weren't as surprising, as there are others in the surrounding area, but examining the mounds near the longhouse will help them get a more complete picture.

a little in English... Flower Sales Increasing

Flower sales have increased during the Covid-19 pandemic. We're sending flowers both to ourselves and those we love.

We've ordered more flowers during the Corona crisis. There has been a tenfold increase in the number of orders at Interflora. At Mester Grønn, there has been an increase of 200 percent. Interflora has 370 stores in Norway. Mester Grønn has 130 stores.

"Flowers convey feelings and thoughts. They enhance the experience of being seen and feeling valued," Kjetil Hans Løken tells NRK. Løken is the general manager of Interflora Norway.

Løken says that Interflora experienced double the flower orders in mid-March [2020]. Then came the strict lockdown rules. In the last two weeks [of April 2020], there has been a tenfold increase.

"We are talking about 10,000 deliveries per day," says Løken.

Erling Ølstad is a florist for Mester Grønn. Mester Grønn is noticing that many people are ordering flowers for themselves at home. They want to decorate their homes, but do not want to go out shopping.

"We have never seen this before," says Ølstad.

litt på norsk... Salget av blomster øker

Salget av blomster har økt under korona-pandemien. Vi sender blomster både til oss selv og de vi er glade i.



Vi bestiller mer blomster under korona-krisen. Det har vært en tidobling av

antallet bestillinger hos Interflora. Hos Mester Grønn har det vært en økning på 200 prosent. Interflora har 370 butikker i Norge. Mester Grønn har 130 butikker.

– Blomster formidler en følelse og en tanke. Det forsterker opplevelsen av å bli sett og å føle seg verdsatt. Det sier Kjetil Hans Løken til NRK. Løken er daglig leder i Interflora Norge.

Løken forteller at Interflora opplevde en dobling i blomsterbestillingene i midten av mars [2020]. Da kom de strenge korona-reglene. De siste to ukene har det vært en tidobling.

– Vi snakker om 10.000 utkjøringer per dag, sier Løken.

Erling Ølstad er blomster-handler i Mester Grønn. Mester Grønn opplever nå at mange sitter hjemme og bestiller blomster til seg selv. De vil pynte opp hjemme, men ønsker ikke å gå ut for å handle.

– Dette har vi aldri sett tidligere, sier Ølstad.

Per Pettersen Picked a Peck of Pickled Pumpkins!

As autumn winds into winter, Norwegians stock their pantries with the final harvests of vegetables and fruits in the form of canned preserves. Though an uncommon vegetable in Norway, Pickled Pumpkin is a traditional treat featured on "koldtbord" tables, the menus of fine hotels, and on mom's dinner table. Lynn Rasmussen fondly recalls her "Grandma Pete" from Washington Island, WI making and sharing her "Syltet Gresskar" (pickled pumpkin) regularly.

Get out your canning jars and try this recipe:

Ingredients:

2 pounds of pumpkin – cleaned, peeled and diced into cubes
 2 cups apple cider vinegar
 1 cup water
 3 cups sugar
 1 tsp. salt
 3 Tbsp. fresh ginger, chopped
 15 whole cloves
 10 whole allspice berries
 2 cinnamon sticks 1 – 2 bay leaves
 1 vanilla bean pod (optional)
 1 whole chili pepper (optional)

Directions:

Bring the vinegar, sugar, water, ginger and spices to a boil in a large pot. Add the diced pumpkin. Bring down to a simmer and cook until the pumpkin pieces are



clear and tender, which should take 3-4 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, scoop out the pumpkin bits and place into the prepared canning jars.

Continue boiling the liquid until it thickens, about 15 minutes. Pour the liquid over the pumpkin in the canning jars, screw on the lids, and let sit in room temperature overnight. Keep the jars in a cool and dark spot until ready to use!

Find out more at: <https://arcticgrub.com/pickled-pumpkin-a-forgotten-recipe/>



Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627
 Carl Rasmussen, Editor
 3136 Dans Ave
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Julie's Norske Bakeri & Bites
September 11
 Julie Faust, presenter

"Not Just For Men"
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 Jerry Trzebiatowski, presenter

Dear Vennligfolk Members



As our newsletter readied for printing, we learned of the passing of longtime lodge member **Joyce Polson**.

The family is planning a memorial service for Joyce at Good Shepherd Church in Plover at a later date. Vennligblad will include a remembrance of her life in our November-December edition.



Road Trip to Scandinavia, Nelsonville, & Waupaca

Watch for more great photos in the next Vennligblad of our August 18 Lodge road-trip to Scandinavian themed stops.

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