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Trustee (2023-2025)

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Trustee (2022-2024)

Carl Rasmussen

Vennligfolk Lodge
meets the second
Sunday evening, 5:00 pm
Sept thru Dec & April-May;
and, meets the second Sunday
Jan through 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, and Plover

Volume 31 Issue 4

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

JULI OG AUGUST 2024

Fra presidenten:



I love starting my Presidenten letter
welcoming new members to
Vennligfolk Lodge! Jerry & Bette

Schneider are our newest members. Let me add
a tidbit about the Schneiders . . . Before they had
even joined our lodge, the Schneiders signed up
to work at the Cultural Festival along with
bringing some baked goods to sell. *Velkommen*
to Jerry & Bette!

Our participation in the Portage County Cultural
Festival was a big success in several ways. So
many members volunteered to make
Scandinavian baked goods, prepare & make
lefse, and to work at our tables. Many people
had their pictures taken at the Norwegian bunad
standees that Ron Hensler brought and set up.
We handed out a lot of Vennligfolk brochures to
the people who came to our tables and were
interested in our lodge. The lines of people
waiting to buy lefse and baked goods continued
to be long until we were sold out of food around
an hour before closing. With the sales of the
food and the generous donations from some of
our members, our treasury is now very
"healthy." And another important take away of
that day is that we had so much visibility and
interest in **Vennligfolk Lodge**. *Mange takk* to
everyone who had a part in the Cultural Festival
for 2024!

Your officers have been busy planning
our programs and activities for 2024-
2025. I am really happy Included in this
newsletter is a listing of to announce
that the Packers finally got my message

asking them not to schedule games at the same
time as our lodge meetings. Whew! Also, many
of our members commented that they liked and
appreciated starting our January, February, and
March meetings at 1:00PM. At a recent officers'
meeting, we voted to make that a permanent
change. All other months our lodge meetings
will start at the regular 5:00PM time. This way,
our members do not have to drive home in the
dark, especially during the cold, wintry months.

Although I have been retired from teaching for
several years, I still get that "summer vacation"
feeling during June, July, and August. Except for
our Midtsommer Picnic, our lodge usually does
not meet during the summer. So, enjoy your
summer and the activities you have planned.
Arno and I will be enjoying beautiful Maui for 10
days in celebration of our 50th wedding
anniversary. See you all on September 8th when
we start our new year of **Vennligfolk Lodge**
meetings.

Hilsen, Susan Morton

Treasurer Judy Pesanka reports: as of June 5,
our lodge showed a balance of \$ \$4201. Cultural
Fest was a great success, as we added \$2676
after expenses, which was our best year ever.

Our popular lefse, bake goods sales, and
generous member donations for Cultural Fest
raise funds that support our many fine Lodge
activities all year long. *Tusen takk!*

Judy P.

In this Issue...

Pg.2 What's Happening at Vennligfolk?

Pg.3 Recent Vennligfolk Photos

Pgs.4-5 Olaf Hagen, by Lois & Oz Hagen

Pg.6 Salmon Dip & Norwegian Berries

Pg.7 Lista Norway & litt på norsk

Pg.8 the back fold . . . Arctic Shock!



Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

Juli

- Arno Morton – 1
- July 4**
- Karen Dorn – 18
- 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

- 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???

Sept 8 at 5PM– Marvelous Monarch Butterfly Returns! Kathy McGrath first shared her story of Monarch Butterflies five years ago in 2019. That was pre-Covid and before several new members joined Vennligfolk. Kathy developed her passion for monarchs while teaching kindergartners in Port Edwards. After retiring, she was able to devote even more time to this second love. Together with husband, Pat, they have raised and released thousands of monarchs and have tagged hundreds before their annual migration to Mexico. Some their monarchs were recovered 1800 miles away in remote Mexico! Her presentation will explain the life cycle of the monarch, how individuals can get involved in raising monarchs, and what everyone can do to help them. Following the presentation attendees will have the opportunity to tag and release monarchs for their annual migration south. McGrath will bring various books on raising monarchs and the caterpillar hand-puppet she designed for instructing students for sale. Bring friends and include the grandchildren too! **As a bonus:** Carl and Lynn Rasmussen will start with a short presentation about their January 2023 trip to the remote Mexican mountaintop Butterfly Reserve to witness where Monarchs migrate each winter. There, the Rasmussens got to experience tens of thousands of Monarchs taking flight around them on a magical bright cool day.



October 13 at 5PM - The Split of New Hope Church, Lodge member, Don Romundson, JD will describe the 1880 split of the New Hope Lutheran Church into North and South congregations over a disagreement of doctrine. Don retired after a 35-year career as an attorney. He has pursued a lifelong interest in local Norwegian history.

Nov 10 at 5PM Christmas in Norway by Patti Rous. Patti spent Christmas last year with her son-in-law's family in Norway. Hear and see her "Norwegian Christmas" experience.



Julefest Setup Saturday Morning December 7 - Helping hands needed. Please plan to join this annual fun activity. Many hands make light the work!
Julefest Sunday December 8 at Fletcher Hall, St Pauls UMC. 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.



Looking ahead to 2025:

- Jan. 12 – Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail**
- Feb. 9 - Jan Flatoff's Travels Abroad**
- March 9 - Scandinavian Art Show (Act 2)**

The Pottawatomie Lighthouse on Rock Island in Door County was completed in 1858.



Patti Rous and friends will be docents there September 9 through 15. To reach the lighthouse takes a little Viking grit: first a ferry to Washington Island, then another ferry to Rock Island, followed by a 1+ mile hike to the lighthouse. **Hrs 10 AM to 4 PM daily.** This lighthouse was one of several maintained by Elmer Sorenson, Lynn Rasmussen's father, while on active Coast Guard duty following his service in WWII.

Recent Photos in Vennligfolk



Violinist Joanna Johnson mesmerized all with a dazzling performance of Norwegian and Scottish melodies on May 5



Lynn and Carl Rasmussen took on coordinating Cultural Fest fresh lefse this year. They thank many for their help and, also our past Lefse Masters, Oz & Lois Hagen!



These smiling volunteers peeled, boiled, and folded in the butter to 40 pounds of potatoes for Cultural Fest. L-R Carl Rasmussen, Jane Gjevre, Sally Prideaux, Kathy Clucas, & Lynn Rasmussen



L-R Ron Hensler, & Jerry Schneider kept our lefse customers well-fortified and entertained!



Bea Berg rolled lefse in the early afternoon with Carl R. doing turning.



L-R Jen Haas, Patti Rous, & Ron Hensler along the baked goods line



Jane Gjevre, & Jerry Schneider enjoy a light moment

Olaf Nielsen Hagen

Submitted by Lois & Oz Hagen

Editors note: our May-June Vennligblad told the story of Ole Hagen, Great-grandfather of Lynn Rasmussen. Here, we meet another Olaf Hagen, Great-grandfather of Oz Hagen!

Olaf Nielsen was born October 13, 1841 in Nissedal, in the province of Telemark, Norway. He was the son of Nils Olavson Kaasa and Inger Sorensdatter.

As a young man about sixteen years of age in 1857, he went to sea and sailed on the oceans for twenty-two years. His career on the water was marked by many adventures and he also came to know what a shipwreck meant. Olaf was a rigger on the ship. It was his job to fit and maintain the ropes, chains and cables used to support and work the masts, yards, and sails on the ship. Oz and Lois Hagen have the tool, made of ebony wood, that Ole used for splicing ropes and maintaining the rigging.

On January 19, 1866 he married Bertha Christensdatter. Bertha was born in 1836 in Risor, Norway and was the daughter of Christen Jensen and Aase Marie Olsdatter. Olaf was from Tvedestrand, Norway at the time of their marriage. The couple made their home in Tvedestrand while he sailed the high seas for more than fifteen years.

Five children came to bless their union with the first three all passing at an early age. Olaf Bertinius was born August 1873 and lived a full and wonderful life. Christine was born in March, 1876. Christine married to her first cousin, Jens Henrik Christiansen and they lived in Chicago where she died at 25 also an early age from an infection in 1901.

Olaf worked on ocean boats belonging to Norway where he earned \$10 per month. Every sailor was required to hire out two years at a time and this \$10 was supposed to be sufficient to maintain a family back home and any incidentals the sailor needed on board. During the twenty-two years, Olaf was in every continent of the world.

Advancement for a sailor on the boats was an impossibility and \$10 was a meager sum to raise a family on. So, Olaf decided to come to the United States. In May 1880, he left Norway and sailed for the "land of opportunity." He entered the United State by the New York port, went to Manitowoc, Wisconsin and lived with the Peter Anderson family, friends from Norway. Olaf sailed on the Great Lakes, eventually working as a ship carpenter for six years.



**Olaf & Bertha Hagen and
children Olaf B and Christine**

At the end of his first two years, he had saved enough money to send for his family, which included: wife, Bertha; nine-year-old son, Olaf; six-year-old daughter, Christine; and his eighty-year-old mother, Inger Nielsen. They left Kristiansand in September 1882 traveling on the Thingvalla Ship Line and went directly to Manitowoc, Wisconsin and all lived with the Peter Anderson family for five years.

In the early 1900's, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Anderson celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary. Their five children gave them a beautiful silver service set. Olin & Nora Hagen had this set for many years and now

Orwoll & Lois Hagen proudly display it in their hutch.

In winter 1883, Lake Michigan was frozen over. Ole had lots of time on his hands so he decided to build a model sailboat replica of a Great Lakes schooner. It was carved out of wood with his jack knife and even the block and tackles all worked. He sewed the sails out of sail cloth and rigged it like a real ship. The boat included a lead keel so his son Olaf could sail it on the local lakes. The boat was hung by chains and displayed in the family dining room on the Hagen farm in Wittenberg for many years. Now the boat is displayed at his Great-grandson, Orwoll 's home in Stevens Point where it sits above the fireplace by Great-grandfather, Hagen's picture.

In October 1887, Olaf brought his family to Wittenberg, Wisconsin where he purchased eighty acres of hardwood timber for \$720. The land was located about a mile north of the village. He and his family built their house which was a structure sixteen by eighteen feet. The original house was the dining room after additions were later made to the house.

In one corner of the room was the pantry that consisted of a series of shelves. Above it was a trap door that led to the attic sleeping quarters. To get to bed, the family climbed up the pantry shelves. About a foot of space was left vacant on each shelf to permit the ascension!

In the spring, the family bought a cow and twelve chickens. Olaf bought the cow in Abbotsford and walked it all the way back to Wittenberg. To conserve time and materials a shed was built on the west side of the house to house the animals. It was his son's duty to care for the cow. Olaf said the cow was alright, but she had a freak of a calf. It had two heads and two tails! It was sent to the Science Museum in Chicago

Meet Olaf Nielsen Hagen - - - continued

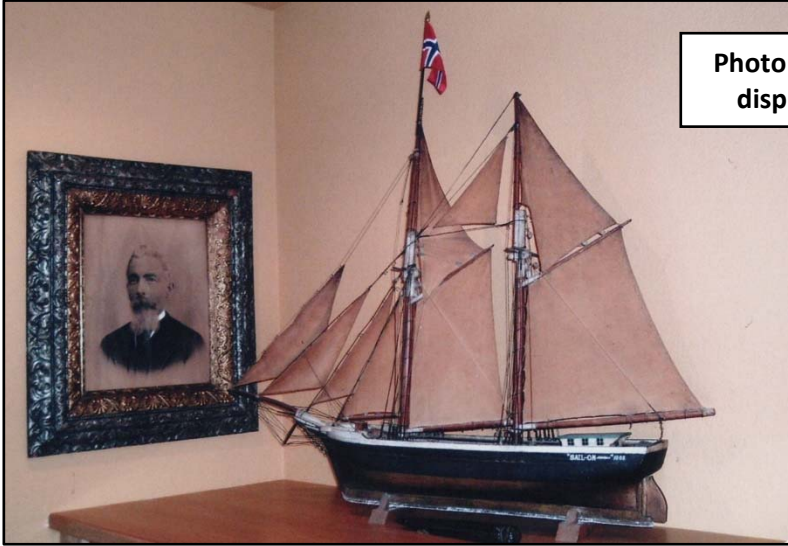


Photo of Olaf Hagen and his hand carved ship displayed at the home of Oz & Lois Hagen

Ole and his son, Olaf, were known as O.N. (Olaf Nielsen) and O.B (Olaf Bertinius). O.N. was sitting in his easy chair and said to his daughter-in-law, "Minnie, have you seen my glasses?" Minnie said, "Yes, you have them on." He had them up on his forehead. Harold Knutson says that this little incident is funnier when someone tells it in Norwegian.

Nearing his 79th year, his health began to fail and for some time he had been confined to his bed. But only a few weeks before his death he was up and about

A problem developed with the mail for the Nielsen family. There were two other Olaf Nielsens in Wittenberg and their mail would regularly get mixed up. Our Nielsens decided to change their name from Nielsen to Hagen, with Hagen coming from the farm or village name in Norway of Standhagen. Olaf Nielsen Hagen became a United States citizen May 18, 1898.

Harold Knutson told a cute story about Ole Nielsen Hagen. Ole had a nice horse. It had at one time been a part of the circus. One day he rode the horse into town. He tied it up to a post and went about his business. Ole liked to talk to his friends and sometimes he forgot what time it was. When he finally decided to go home, he came out and his horse was gone. The horse had gotten tired of waiting for Ole so he wriggled out of the knot and ran home. Ole had to walk home. When he arrived, there was the horse. The horse did not stay tied in its stall either. He always managed to get untied.

and able to go to town. A few days before his death it became apparent that his days were about numbered, a fact he himself realized, and he was prepared in every way to go.

Death called him early in the morning of August 31, 1921. Dr. J.B. Thompson, cousin to Minnie Hagen, pronounced his death to be "trouble of the heart." The large attendance at the funeral attested to the esteem held for him in the community and the general affection that was his portion. Rev. Wang, and Rev. Lunde officiated at the house and at the church. Both pastors justly credited him with being a model citizen and a good, loyal church member. He enjoyed prayer meetings. Beautiful selections were sung by the choir.

Olaf was laid to rest in the First Lutheran Church congregation cemetery buried with his wife, Bertha, his daughter, Christine, and his mother, Inger.

SONS Membership Benefit – Life Insurance

Have you ever typed "affordable life insurance" into your browser, only to find yourself drowning in information overload? The sheer volume seems insurmountable and overwhelming.

As a Sons of Norway member, you do not have to navigate this maze alone. Membership comes with the invaluable benefit of access to a dedicated Insurance Professional.

They can help you decipher the complexities of financial options and find a solution tailored to your needs and those of your family.

Do not waste precious time sifting through endless search results on Google. Instead, take advantage of this membership perk and call us to get in touch with a professional in your area. Find an agent near you at www.sofn.com in the Financial Products section.



Monarch Fact: Monarch butterflies travel as far as 100 miles a day during their 1800-mile migration to a small forested area located about 60 miles northwest of Mexico City!

Å skrive noe bak øret

Translation: To write something behind the ear.

Meaning: To make a mental note of something; to make sure to remember something.

Smoked Salmon Spread

This smoked salmon dip is the perfect way to stretch pricey smoked salmon and give it a little zing! Here, the salmon is mixed in cream cheese with fresh herbs and seasonings.

Recipe and photos: Dotdash Meredith Food Studios



Ingredients:

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 6 ounces smoked salmon, chopped
- 1/4 cup capers, or to taste
- 2 Tbsp. chopped green onion (optional)
- 1 1/2 tsp. chopped fresh dill
- 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- 3 dashes Worcestershire sauce
- 3 drops hot sauce (Tabasco or similar)
- 1 tsp. fresh lemon juice

Directions:

Gather all ingredients. Process cream cheese in a food processor to soften completely.

Add smoked salmon, capers, green onion, dill, cream, Worcestershire sauce, hot sauce, and lemon juice. Pulse the mixture again until mixed but slightly chunky. Garnish with chopped dill and serve with your favorite crackers, pita bread wedges or slices of baguette.

Viking Marketplace Unearthed

Another exciting Viking discovery has been made in southwest Norway. On a small island, known as Klosterøy, archaeologists from the University of Stavanger believe they have found traces of a Viking marketplace. The marketplace location coincides with the location of the Utstein monastery, one of Norway's best-preserved medieval monasteries.

The discovery was made using ground penetrating radar and includes man-made pit houses, cooking pits, and boathouse foundations. Pit houses were structures covered with an

Norwegian Berries

The growing season in Norway is short, so only certain fruits can thrive. Cooler summer weather and long daylight hours make for ideal berry growing, and Norwegians are wild about foraging and picking. Berry season begins in late June with strawberries and lasts through mid-October with black currants. *Jordbær*, strawberries, are considered a high point of the summer, and the whereabouts of wild strawberry patches are well-guarded family secrets. Strawberries are usually enjoyed fresh with sugar and/or cream, or in *bløtkake*, a layered cream cake.

Multer/Molter/Moltebær, cloudbberries, are the crown jewel of Norwegian fruit (yes, *cloudberry* is technically a fruit and not a berry). They grow above the Arctic Circle in mountain swamp areas and resemble large orange-pink raspberries. Multer only grow in the wild and cannot be farmed, so unless you forage your own, they are expensive and can be hard to source. Also known as *viddas gull* (highland gold), *multer* are delicately juicy, flavored like sweet-tart apples. *Cloudbberries* are one of the rarest, and most sought-after fruits in the world.



Other berries include *tyttebær* (lingonberries) which taste similar to cranberries, *krøkebær/krekling* (crowberries) which resemble blueberries but are black and are mainly used in juice, *moreller* (Morello cherries), *bjørnebær* (blackberries) grow in many yards, *blåbær* (bilberries/Arctic blueberries) are used in juices, tea, desserts and syrup. *Bringebær* (raspberries), grown in the wild and in gardens, are used in sauces, cakes, and jams. *Rips* (red currants) and *solbær* (black currants) are harvested late into September and are used to make juice, wine, liqueur and jam. *Elgbær* (moose berries) grow close to the ground, and if you see some, you should be on the lookout for nearby moose!

angled roof and had a floor below ground level helping to keep the houses warm in winter and cool in summer. They believe the area was inhabited by Nordic farmers, merchants, craftspeople, warriors, and seafarers in the ninth century.



American Culture in Lista, Norway

Immigration is a bedrock of American history. The US is often called a nation of immigrants, reflected in nearly every aspect of our culture. And while unique American culture can be easy to spot, it is not often seen beyond our shores—except in Lista, Norway.

While plenty of Norwegians permanently settled in the United States, in the 1950's and 60's there was a sizable group of Norwegians that came to the US after World War II temporarily for work and eventually returned to Norway. Many of these migrants spent time in places like Brooklyn, NY and embraced all that American culture had to offer them. When they returned home to Norway, they brought things like street signs, kitchens, outlets, appliances, cars, windows, and furniture with them.



Americana culture is still seen and celebrated along Norway's southern coast. Every summer in the last weekend of June, *The American Festival* is held in nearby Vanse. Meeting in "Brooklyn Square" the festival includes a street parade – inspired by New Orleans Mardi Gras, musical events with tribute bands that may play artists like Johnny Cash, Jon Bon Jovi, and much more. Walk of Fame Stars are given to those that have helped champion American cultural heritage in Lista. One such recipient is Norway's own Kjell Elvis, an Elvis impersonator who is from the area.

Aside from the annual celebration of all things American, Vanse is home to stores like **Trunken** which has been in operation for 20 years. The store is filled with well-known American products and named for the item that first brought them back to Norway, the trunk, or American suitcase. **Trunken** has expanded to feature a museum that displays an authentic and retro American apartment as well as a diner style bakery that serves up BLT's, apple, pumpkin, and lemon meringue pies. So, if you are ever in the area, you can make a pit stop for a taste and feel of America in Lista.

a little in English...

What is it like to learn Norwegian?

Learning a whole new language can seem quite difficult.

English is not so different from Norwegian

Speaking English from the start can make learning Norwegian both easier and more difficult.

Many Norwegian words are similar to the English words for the same thing, such as *kniv* and *knife*. This is because the words originate from the same language, namely Old Norse.

Norwegian belongs to the Germanic language family. This means that it shares many similarities with other languages such as Swedish, Danish, German and English.

But there are also many differences between Norwegian and English. Many vowels in Norwegian are similar, which makes it difficult for English speakers to tell them apart.

"We have many vowels far forward in the mouth, and that is quite unusual," says linguist Gølin Nilsen.

l, *y*, *e* and *ø* can sound the same and it is the way you shape your mouth that makes the sounds different.

litt på norsk...

Hvordan er det å lære seg norsk

Å lære et helt nytt språk kan virke ganske vanskelig.

Engelsk er ikke så annerledes fra norsk

Det å snakke engelsk fra før av kan gjøre det både lettere og vanskeligere å lære seg norsk.

Mange norske ord ligner på de engelske ordene for samme ting, som for eksempel *kniv* og *knife*. Det er fordi ordene stammer fra det samme språket, nemlig gammelnorsk.

Norsk tilhører den germanske språkfamilien. Det betyr at det deler mange likheter med andre språk som svensk, dansk, tysk og engelsk.

Men det er også mange forskjeller mellom norsk og engelsk. Mange vokaler på norsk likner på hverandre, noe som gjør det vanskelig for engelsktalende å skille dem fra hverandre.

– Vi har mange vokaler langt fremme i munnen, og det er ganske uvanlig, sier språkforsker Gølin Nilsen.

l, *y*, *e* og *ø* kan høres like ut og det er måten du former munnen på som gjør lydene forskjellige.



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



Marvelous Monarch Butterfly Returns!
 By Kathy McGrath
 Sunday Sept 8 at 5PM

The Split of New Hope Church
 By Don Romundson
 Sunday Oct 13 at 5PM



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.



Tusen takk

Exercise Arctic Shock

In March, the US Army and Norwegian Army took part in a combined exercise known as Exercise Arctic Shock. Soldiers from the 11th Airborne Division of the US Army in Alaska were flown to Norway over the North Pole on short notice to demonstrate their rapid response practices. Once over the Arctic, they parachuted down over Norway's far north Lake Takvanet.

The goal of the exercise was to provide cold-weather training, field training, and enhance strategic cooperation between the U.S. Army and the Norwegian Army. Arctic Shock included 100 soldiers from the Norwegian armed forces and around 130 U.S. soldiers. It is part of NATO's efforts to encourage preparedness for potential threats over the high North. This exercise added to a series of operations that had taken place in the Arctic over previous weeks.



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