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Lodge Librarian
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Lodge Historian
Lois Hagen

Language Specialist
Jan Flatoff

Cultural Skills Coord.
Patti Rous

Trustee (2025-2027)

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 Vennligfolk - Sons of Norway Lodge #5-627 of Central Wisconsin
Serving Stevens Point, Whiting, Plover, Marshfield, and Wisconsin Rapids Areas

Volume 32 Issue 6

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

NOVEMBER OG DESEMBER 2025

Fra presidenten:



What a great way to start our new year of programs and activities! Our September meeting felt like a family reunion where we gathered

in a circle and heard from seasoned members and new members of **Vennligfolk Lodge**. It was a wonderful way to welcome every member to our lodge!

Having the Stoughton Norwegian Dancers perform for our community was a splendid event. I must thank Patti Rous for contacting the Stoughton Dancers and making the arrangements for their performance. Woodlands Church was so gracious to let us host the dancers in their beautiful facility. That weekend happened to be the same weekend as my family reunion. So, I just made the Stoughton Dancers part of the activities for the reunion weekend.

November is known for having elections at the local, state, and federal levels. It is also the month when **Vennligfolk Lodge** has our Election of Officers. In this issue of Vennligblad, you will find a listing of the members who have agreed to serve for the upcoming year. November 11th, 2012 was the date that I was voted in as "**Vennligfolk** Presidenten." I felt so inadequate to take on the position of leading this lodge! But . . . everyone helped me learn how to navigate in those first few years. I truly felt that all of the officers worked as a "well-greased" team

and I still feel that way after 13 years. *Tusen takk* to everyone who has previously served and currently are serving as **Vennligfolk** Officers. You are appreciated!

Our lodge's Julefest celebration has always been such a lovely, festive event. Several people have told me that Julefest is the highlight of their Christmas season. This year Julefest is on December 14th in Fletcher Hall of St. Paul's Church starting at 4:30PM. Ambrosia's will be catering a good portion of the meal, as they did last year. Our lodge members will provide desserts and some traditional Scandinavian dishes. At our November 9th lodge meeting you will have the opportunity to sign up to bring those extra food selections. If you have been coming to our Julefest parties for several years, you will remember "Aspiring Acapella." This group of four talented ladies performed for us two times in the past. When Covid hit, they quit performing, but now they are back with a new program of Christmas songs. You won't want to miss this evening as we celebrate Christmas together.

So, now as we pull out our Norwegian sweaters, watch football, eat turkey, and start holiday decorating, let me wish our members a "Happy Thanksgiving" and a "Merry Christmas."

*Gledelig Jul og Godt Nytt År,
Susan Morton*

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A Little in English & litt på norsk



Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

NOVEMBER

Elizabeth Boudreau -3
Julaine Varsho -5
Farsdag (Norway) - 9
Susan Boudreau - 15
Ben Boudreau -17
Micah Horvath -25
Cindy Larson Kluck 26
Donald Romundson 27
Thanksgiving - 27

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

DESEMBER

Carol Bender - 5
Sally Prideaux -10
Judy Pesanka - 15
Elaine Anderson - 17
Andrea Brown - 17
Lori Johnson - 18
Carl Rasmussen - 23
Christmas Day -25
Carolyn Sommer - 28
Sandra Boyles - 29
New Year's Eve - 31

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

VENNLIGBLAD

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???



Nov 9 at 5 PM **The Restauration**

– **Then and Now** Presented by Patti Rous. 2025 marked the 200th Anniversary of the first organized emigration of *Norwegians* to the United States. The original single masted sloop, Restauration, left Stavanger on July 4, 1825, and now the trip has been

recreated with a landing in New York City on October 9 the same date of arrival 200 years ago. Patti was there to greet the ship! **Food Servers:** Kathy Clucas, Lois Hagen, Cindy Larson Kluck, **Table Display:** TBD; **Marshall:** Tom Johnson



Scandinavian Boutique November 22 9AM to 4 PM at: Trinity Lutheran Church, 206 E. Badger St. Waupaca, WI. Rosemaling, Handwoven baskets, Mittens, Nisses, gnomes & Vikings, Cement leaves & pots, Wall décor, Ornaments, Needle Felting, Wood carvings & cutouts, Turned bowls, Norwegian knits, Lefse & krumkake demo, Baked goods

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. Watch for sign-up sheets for bringing food.



Sunday January 11, 2026 Secret Escape from Denmark A World War II story about Tommy Sneum, a young Danish resistance fighter with flight experience determined to reach England to join the RAF to fight the Germans. With friend, Kjeld Pedersen they risk their lives making a 720 mile journey across the North Sea in a two-seat bi-plane with a range of only 372 miles and no place to refuel! Presented by Arno Morton. **Food Servers:** Jen Haas, Lynn Rasmussen, Bea Berg, **Table Display:** Susan Morton **Marshall:** Susan Morton



Sunday February 8, 2026 1 PM - The Story of Al Johnson's

Swedish Restaurant - Lynn and Carl Rasmussen will host a video presentation about the history of this iconic Scandinavian themed Door County-Sister Bay restaurant-butik and landmark. **Food Servers:** Charlotte & Ron Hensler, Jane Gjevne, **Table Display:** Charlotte Hensler, **Marshall:** TBD

Sunday March 8, 2026 1 PM Highlights of Boston's Freedom

Trail - The Freedom Trail in Boston has a 2.5-mile-long path painted between key revolutionary and colonial-era sites. Jan Flatoff and husband, Ernie, took a walking tour along the Freedom Trail and visited the sites on it. Jan will share some of the interesting stories they heard about events leading up to the American Revolution and the signing of the declaration of independence 250 years ago! **Food Servers:** TBD, **Table Display:** TBD, **Marshall:** TBD (photo: Paul Revere & the N Church)



Sunday April 12, 2026 Return to Norway, Presentor Julie Faust tells of her 2025 return to Norway and her original host family during nine months of high school. This time she brought her entire family! Julie is the owner of Julie's Norwegian Bakery in Plover.

Saturday May 2 10AM - 5PM: Portage County Cultural Festival "Food, Fun, & Music from Around the World" Mark your calendars and make plans to participate!

Sunday May 10, 5PM To Be Determined Perhaps a program about Masse Moro?

Treasurer Judy Pesanka reports: On Oct 1, 2025, the lodge had a balance of \$6234.

Stoughton H.S. Norwegian Dancers Wow Central Wisconsin - Oct 19!



Susan Morton's niece, Hallie hopes to be a Stoughton Dancer someday too!

Fanny Paulson Hagen, An Early Washington Islander - Part 2

by Lynn Rasmussen, sourced from "The Hagen/Gudmundsen Story"- Percy Hagen circ. 1950's

Fanny Paulson was my great-grandmother, a Norwegian settler and early resident of Washington Island, Wisconsin. This complements the article about her husband, my great-grandfather, Ole Hagen first shared in the May-June 2024 Vennligblad.

Fanny Elvira Paulson was born March 1, 1857, in Oslo, Norway, the second child of Ole Paulson and Martha Johnson. Fanny's older brother John Paulson was born in 1852, and her younger brother Carl (Charlie) Martin was born in Oslo in October 1860

Her parents Ole and Martha were married in June 1852 at the Oslo Domkirke Cathedral. Fanny's father worked as a "underveier" or deputy weighmaster for the City of Oslo, managing government scales and earning \$60 per month—a respectable salary at the time.

Fanny's mother Martha was born in Nittedal, Akershus, Norway an area just north of Oslo. Although not much is documented of Martha's younger years, she once told her grandchildren of tobogganing in Norway by using reindeer hides for toboggans. Jahn Johannesen, her father, was a blacksmith by trade.

The family lived at the relatively new Arbeiderbolig, a 45-unit apartment house constructed in 1852 near the Trefoldighet (Trinity Church) in north-central Oslo. Life was good, but in July 1863 Ole Paulsen passed suddenly at the early age of forty-six. The recorded cause of death was "nervefeber," a term used in the 19th century to refer to illnesses now classified as typhoid and paratyphoid fever. Ole Paulson's passing was recorded in the Trefoldighet parish records.

Fanny married Ole Hagen in October 1880 in Oslo, and the couple continued to live there until 1883 when along with their 2-year-old son Carl and Fanny's mother Martha set sail for the United States. Arriving in Castle Garden, New York, they traveled to Chicago and after a brief layover continued to Washington Island. It was the first time Fanny had ever been away from her native city of Oslo and she was never to return to Norway. At the time of their crossing, Fanny was six months pregnant with her second child.



Ole & Fanny Hagen and their 9 children – 1896
Lynn's grandma Martha stands just right of Fanny

The ship that carried Fanny and family across the Atlantic was the SS Geiser. This vessel would later become known for the tragic disaster at sea that occurred five years later in 1888 when the Geiser collided with the SS Thingvalla, off Sable Island, New York. The impact was catastrophic—the Geiser broke in two and sank in only five minutes, resulting in the loss of 105 lives.

Regarding the motives that prompted the Hagens to seek a new life in the new world, some credit is given to a letter Fanny received from her younger brother, Carl Martin. Carl had already emigrated and lived in the US. He wrote glowingly about the wonderful new country and its hospitable people, declaring "people were so honest, you

could hang dollar bills on the clothesline and never have a one of them stolen!"

They traveled to Washington Island based on connections her husband Ole had with Louis and Herman Berg, two cousins living there. Upon arrival, the Hagens were fortunate to rent a shelter in Washington Harbor on the north end of the island. Fanny gave birth to son Julian in that house in July.

While living in Washington Harbor, Ole began building a home on farmland he had purchased in West Harbor about a half mile from the shore of Green Bay. The family moved there in 1884 as soon as it was habitable. Lynn says her grandmother Martha Hagen was born there that year. Six more children would follow!

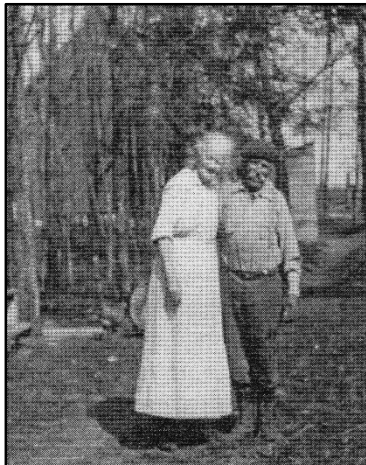
Through the years the couple raised nine children (5 boys, 4 girls) who all lived into adulthood and began families of their own: Carl, Julian, Martha (my grandmother), Sigrid, Swara, Harry, Henry, Fanny, and Tillie. There is a family picture taken about 1896, showing Fanny with husband Ole and their nine children.

During the early lean years when Ole was developing the farm, Fanny fought a constant battle to keep food on the table. When an animal was slaughtered, nothing was wasted. The by-products were as carefully salvaged as would be the case in a modern meat packing plant. Such dishes as head

Meet Fanny Paulson Hagen – Early Washington Islander - -continued

cheese and blood cheese were the tasty results of Fanny's abhorrence of waste. It is a tribute to her ingenuity in the pantry that her children fondly recalled her Boston Baked beans, her brown bread, and her vegetable soup more often than they did the roasted fowl or choice cuts of beef which she prepared for festive occasions

In the early 1900's, Fanny started taking in summer paying guests as a means of augmenting the family income. Her guest list gradually swelled until by 1905 she had a total of twenty-three people including family and guests arriving at various times over the summer. The guests were accommodated by fixing up temporary quarters for her own daughters in the attic above the upstairs bedrooms, and by housing her five boys in the barn's haymow. During this period, the house was cleaned and scrubbed daily, and at each meal the guests were furnished with white linen napkins, which of course had to be hand laundered.



Ole & Fanny Hagen at the homestead - undated

Fanny was a tall, big boned, handsome woman, slightly taller than her husband. She is the one given major credit for the number of "six-footers" in the ensuing generations. She always exuded an immense capacity for work displayed by taking an active part in farm duties along with the regular care of a household. A superlative cook, her influence in the family is still felt in the numerous recipes and favorite dishes which she first taught her daughters and daughters-in-law and continue to be handed down generation to generation.

Grandson Percy Hagen fondly remembered Fanny as a tall imposing figure presiding over a delightfully fragrant stove in her large kitchen. Her sharply worded disapproval of any foolishness was more than offset by her extreme compassion for anything or anybody whom she thought was getting the worst of a deal. It is exceedingly difficult to adequately describe her, and those who have tried have done so in words generally reserved for only the very great ones among personalities.

Percy's mother Lillie told of how after her marriage to Fanny's first son Julian, Fanny made a point of taking her aside and telling her how happy she was to have her in the family. In fact, Lillie related how she found little humor in stories about mothers-in-law, because she always regarded her own as a very dear and special friend!

In her early seventies, Fanny began to lose some of her tremendous vitality, and from that time on her health failed slowly but steadily. She had no faith in doctors and continually fought any attempt to find or treat the cause of the condition which eventually terminated in death. She died on January 20, 1932, of what is believed to have been pernicious anemia, and is buried in the Washington Island cemetery.

One item which Fanny brought with her from Norway was a wet cupping outfit with which she was able to treat various ailments by the age-old method of bleeding. Her son, Charlie, provided the following description of the equipment and the method she used: "The cups were of heavy, transparent glass and the bleeding machine itself was octagonal in shape with a lever at the side which controlled several small blades on the inside of the base."

She would place the machine on the sore spot, and snap the lever, thereby causing the blades to pierce the skin. A small piece of cotton which had been dipped in alcohol was lit and placed in the cup. After being allowed to flame for an instant, the cotton was removed and the cup with its quantity of heated air was then placed over the area of skin which had been pierced by the machine. As the air in the cup cooled, the resulting vacuum drew blood from the pierced surface. The blood was generally quite dark. Julian and Charlie often watched both Fanny and her mother, Grandma Martha Paulson operate in this manner on various Island old-timers.



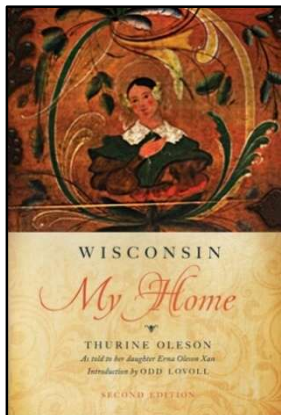
Cupping set, London England, circ. 1860-75

Photo Credit:
Wellcome Collection
gallery (2018-03-28)
Wikipedia

The octagonal lancet
scarificator is on the
lower right

Wisconsin My Home

A Review by Kathy Clucas



At our September Lodge meeting, I picked up a book **“Wisconsin My Home”** from the Elvedal book table and I’m so glad I did. Wisconsin My Home is a memoir that beautifully preserves the immigration experience of Norwegians settling in Wisconsin.

Born in 1866 to parents who came from Telemarken, Norway, Thurine

Oleson shares her childhood memories of pioneer life - the challenges of farming, the strength of family and the importance of community. The book is rich with details of daily living from food to clothing to church to celebrations giving a vivid picture of how Norwegian traditions were carried across the ocean.

Although this book is not face-paced, its charm lies in its authenticity and warmth. I was reminded of the resilience, values and faith that shaped my ancestors. Wisconsin My Home is a reminder of the legacy we inherit and the importance of preserving these stories.

This much-loved book was first published in hardcover in 1950 “when Thurine was a spry octogenarian.” A second edition printed by the University of Wisconsin Press in paperback in 2012 is available at Amazon and includes 29 restored photos from the original edition.



Jerry Trzebiatowski Receives Carving Awards

At the 21st Annual Wisconsin River Woodcarving Show, Competition, & Sale held in Stevens Point September 20-21, Vennligfolk member Jerry Trzebiatowski received two first-place and two third-place

awards for his judged carved pieces. Jerry previously shared his carving skills at our May 2025 Lodge meeting while he explained the Swedish word “*Slöjd*” as a life philosophy and how the philosophy influences his art.

As for the recognition, Jerry deadpanned, “4 ribbons, I’m kinda pleased.” Editor’s note: It is well deserved Jerry!



They Made It!

On October 9, 2025 the ship and crew of the 54-foot-long sloop Restauration achieved their goal of recreating the 1825 voyage made by the original ship of the same name. That ship left Stavanger, Norway on July 4, 1825 and three months later, entered the port of New York October 9 bringing the first group of 52 Norwegian emigrants to the United States. The date would later be recognized as Leif Erikson Day in the United States beginning in 1964.

Our November speaker, Patti Rous was in New York to witness the sloops’ arrival. In fact Patti rode on an official escort boat and captured the above photo as the Restauration passed in front of the Statue of Liberty! Be sure to attend her presentation November 9, 5PM about this spectacular adventure! See description on page 2.

Golden Members Recognized

During our “Get To Know Elvedal, Myrmarken and Vennligfolk” September 14 meeting, seven individuals were recognized as Golden Members. The members are: **Cindy Kluck, Louise Lang, Janice Flatoff, Jane Gjevre, and Lois Hagen.** All were Charter members of Vennligfolk. **William Anderson** who first joined Elvedal in 1994 also achieved SON Golden Member status. **Bea Berg** who became a Golden Member in 2019 also received her past due acknowledgement.

A Golden Member is one who is at least 65 years of age and has been a member in good standing for 30 years or more.
(Pictured L-R: Bea Berg, Cindy Kluck, Jane Gjevre)



Vennligfolk 2026 Officers Slate

Each year **Vennligfolk** selects officers and various leaders at the regularly scheduled November meeting. Terms begin at our January meeting. For 2026, the following slate will be presented to the Lodge at our November 9th meeting.



2026 Vennligfolk Nominations

President:	Susan Morton
Vice -President:	_____
Secretary:	_____
Treasurer:	Judy Pesanka
Financial Secretary:	Arno Morton
Program Director:	Charlotte Hensler
Social Director:	_____
Newsletter Editor	Carl Rasmussen
Newsletter Distributor:	Lynn Rasmussen

Vennligfolk Nominations – continued. . .

Webmaster:	Kathy Clucas
Publicity:	Kathy Clucas
Librarian:	Jane Gjevre
Musician:	Louise Lang
Sunshine Coordinator:	Bea Berg
Historian:	Lois Hagen
Language Specialist:	Jan Flatoff
Cultural Skills:	Patti Rous
Trustee (2026-2028):	Mark Hansen

Continuing Trustees

Trustee (2025-2027):	Lynn Rasmussen
Trustee (2024-2026):	Karen Trzebiatowski

Write-in Nominations will also be accepted with the agreement of the individual to serve



a little in English. . . The Oseberg Ship Arrives

The 1,200-year-old Oseberg Ship was lowered to its final port on Wednesday evening [September 10, 2025].

"It is a very historic day. We saw the ship disappear from the exhibition hall where it has stood for 99 years; it will never return says project manager at Statsbygg, Lars Gornæs

All of Wednesday was set aside to move the ship the 100-meter route from the old Viking Ship Museum to the new Viking Age Museum, which is built next door.

At one point on Wednesday evening, the ship was hanging several meters above the ground. The move took place at a slow pace, up to 20 centimeters per minute.

The move has a price tag of around 500 million kroner [50 million US dollars] and has been planned for ten years since the ship is so fragile.

The new Viking Age Museum is scheduled to open in 2027. Before that, the Gokstad ship and the Tune ship will also be moved into the climate-controlled building.

Photos: Museum of the Viking Age-
University of Oslo



litt på norsk. . . Osebergskipet fremme

Det 1.200 år gamle Osebergskipet ble onsdag kveld senket ned til sin siste havn.

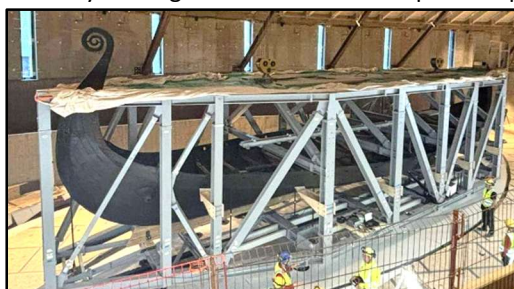
– Det er en veldig historisk dag. Vi så skipet forsvinne ut av den utstillingssalen hvor den har stått i 99 år, den skal aldri tilbake sier prosjektleder i Statsbygg, Lars Gornæs

Hele onsdagen var satt av til å flytte skipet den 100 meter lange ruten fra det gamle Vikingskiphuset til det nye Vikingtidsmuseet, som er bygd vegg i vegg.

Skipet hang på et tidspunkt onsdag kveld flere meter over bakken. Flyttingen skjedde i sakte tempo, opp mot 20 centimeter per minutt.

Flyttingen har en prislapp på rundt 500 millioner kroner og har vært planlagt i ti år siden skipet er så skjørt.

Det nye Vikingtidsmuseet skal etter planen åpne i 2027. Før det skal også Gokstadskipet og Tuneskipet flyttes inn i det klimaregulerte huset..





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



The Restauration – Then and Now
by Patti Rous

Sunday Nov 9 at 5 PM
St Pauls UMC Stevens Point, WI

Julefest 2025

Sunday Dec 14 at 4:30 PM
St Pauls UMC Stevens Point, WI



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!

SOFN Christmas Ornament 2025

Show your Norwegian pride this holiday season by adding the 2025 Sons of Norway commemorative ornament to your Christmas traditions. With its Telemark-style design, this elegant ornament will be a treasured addition to your holiday decor. Packaged in a silver-stamped gift box containing a Christmas greeting from Sons of Norway and an informative description of the Telemark style of rosemaling, this ornament is a unique gift for someone who enjoys their Norwegian heritage as much as you do. This special keepsake is only \$25 plus tax, shipping and handling.



Order at <https://www.sofn.com/>

Find it under the "SHOP" dropdown menu

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