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Trustee (2025-2027)
Lynn Rasmussen

Trustee (2024-2026)
Karen Trzebiatowski

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 33 Issue 4

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

JULI OG AUGUST 2026

Fra presidenten:



Tusen takk to everyone who had a part in the Portage County Cultural Festival at SPASH in May!

As in other years, **Vennligfolk Lodge** had a very successful day. By now, the community knows what wonderful lefse and baked goods we have at our tables. I want to give Carl & Lynn Rasmussen a huge "shout out" for heading up the lefse making for Cultural Festival. They put in countless hours before, during and after the Cultural Festival for our lodge to have enough lefse for this yearly event.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming *Door County Road Trip* on Wednesday, October 14th. We are still in the planning stages, but so far we plan to go to the Maritime Museum in Sturgeon Bay, Al Johnson's Restaurant & Butik, and either Seaquist's or Wood Orchard. As we did on our last Door County Road Trip, we will be using a mini bus for traveling together. Door County is beautiful in every season, but especially in autumn! More information will be coming as plans are finalized.

Apparently, this year the Packers did not get my memo about scheduling their games during our lodge meetings. In all of our fall lodge meetings, the Packers are playing at.

3:25PM. These games include some of our biggest rivals - the Vikings and the Bears. A couple of years ago, we had a "tailgating" party in September and started our lodge

meeting at 1:00PM so we could all be home to watch the Packers first game of the season.

I do realize that some of our members are not Packer fans, but some of our members are big time Packer fans. So, our officers are contemplating a 1:00PM start for all of our fall lodge meetings. If you have strong feelings either way on this issue, please kindly let our officers know how you feel. All of our phone numbers and email addresses are listed in this newsletter. A decision will be made at our next Officers' Meeting in August.

Christmas is a long ways out, but summer is the time when I start thinking about Julefest. This year, it would be wonderful to have some new people on our planning team for this beautiful event. If you are interested in being on the Julefest committee, let me know. Our first planning meeting will be in September.

Enjoy our Wisconsin summer. It goes by so quickly!

Hilsen, Susan Morton

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Birthdays of the Month

Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the
day!

Juli

Arno Morton – 1

July 4

Karen Dorn – 18

Bernard Binning - 27

Frederick Morgan - 28

St Olaf's Day – 29

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

August

Thomas Boudreau - 1

Rosy Paulson - 4

Tom Johnson – 4

Jen Haas - 8

Lois Alfsen – 9

Kathy Clucas - 11

Ron Hensler - 15

Bill Beversdorf - 17

Karen Trzebiatowski - 18

Rita Johnson – 21

Carolyn Schulein – 23

Julie Lynn

Nelson Sheppelman-23

Jan Flatoff – 27

John Rock– 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					

VENNLIGBLAD

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???

Note: The Green Bay Packers have again released their Fall schedule without consulting Vennligfolk. To accommodate member and fan interest, Vennligfolk will be moving the starting times for our first three fall meetings to 1 PM on Sept 13; Oct 11; and Nov 8. On Sept 13 the Packers play the Vikings at 3:25 PM; on Oct 11 the Indiana Bears at 3:25 PM; and on Nov 8, the New England Patriots at 3:25 PM. Your understanding is appreciated!



Sept 13 - 1 PM Program To Be Determined - Confirmation of the topic and speakers for this meeting is still in progress. Check this space in our September-October Vennligblad. Food Servers: TBD, Table Display: TBD Marshall: TBD

Wednesday, October 14th Door County Road Trip - Still in the planning stages, but stops being considered include: the Maritime Museum in Sturgeon Bay, Al Johnson's Restaurant & Butik in Sister Bay, and either Seaquist's or Wood Orchard.



Oct 11 - 1 PM - Freedom Trail by Andrew Griesman - A program about the freedom riders during the civil rights movement in the 1960's. Officially known as the U.S. Civil Rights Trail—spans 15 states, connecting the physical landmarks and pivotal moments of the 1950s and 1960s Civil Rights Food Servers: TBD, Table Display: TBD Marshall: TBD

Nov 8 – 1 PM Trip to Europe and Norway presented by Judy Pesanka and her son Geoff. The program will recount their 2026 land tour of France and England and then travelling to Norway for a Norwegian cruise ship fjord tour. Food Servers: TBD, Table Display: TBD Marshall: TBD



Sunday December 13 Julefest 2026 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.

Treasurer Judy Pesanka reports:

Sales and donations at Cultural Fest 2026 totaled \$3600. After expenses were paid, \$2700 was deposited to the Lodge's General Account. As of June 9, 2026, including funds from Cultural Fest, the Lodge checkbook shows a total balance of \$6,419.84.



Errata: Vennligblad Editor offers belated "Happy Birthday Wishes" and "Gratulerer med dagen" and a personal apology to the following Vennligfolk members for May and June. Rushing to meet our early May deadline, resulted in overlooking a usual check to add new members to the previous year's birthday list. Birth dates follow each missed member below: **Carl R**

May:

Sarah Kolstad-5; Douglas Framness-14; Donald Berg-20; Anne-Grethe Roesholdt Cook-26

June:

Jean Beaver – 20; Thomas Stram – 21; Dorothy Berg – 22; Benjamin Price – 25;

er-ra-ta: \ih-rah-tuh\ n. pl. [Latin erratum] def: See **UFFDA!**

Recent Photos at Vennligfolk



April Presenter Julie Faust talks about her 2025 return to Norway visiting her original host family & other places



May Presenters Tor & Lisa Anderson describe their 2025 two-weeks in Norway visiting many folk museums, examples of historic Rosemaling, 11 stave churches and experiencing the hospitality of family members



Cultural Fest 2026 !!!

"Food, Fun, & Music from Around the World"



Introducing: Tom and Susan Boudreau

Tom and Susan Boudreau met at their church youth group. They also attended Lincoln High School together in Wisconsin Rapids. After finishing high school Tom said, "I did not know what I wanted to do so I enrolled at Wood County Teachers College and graduated there in 1964.

That same year, Susan and Tom got married on August 15, 1964, and Tom explained, "Since we were young and did not have much money for a honeymoon, we took a camping trip around Lake Superior ending up at Trout Lake in Vilas County. We would go back camping at Trout Lake for the next 25 years! For our 45th anniversary we took the same trip around Lake Superior but this time we stayed in hotels!"

Tom was born in Wisconsin Rapids and graduated from Lincoln High School and said, "My high school claim to fame was that I never missed a day of school in 4 years!" After the couple's 1964 honeymoon Tom attended UW-River Falls and in 1967 he started working for Wyandotte Chemicals in Port Edwards, WI as an operator. It was a new plant then built to supply chemicals to paper mills throughout Wisconsin. Tom worked shift work for 35 years but in 2001 switched to a day job for two years prior to retiring January 1, 2004.

Tom is connected to Norway on his mother's side. His great grandparents, Thomas Hogan and Olava Lymmes, were both born in Norway. They came here and settled in Blair Wisconsin. With that heritage, Tom joined Sons of Norway in 1989. In 1992 he was nominated to become a Director for District Five. He continued as a director on and off until 2022 when he decided it was time to retire.

Susan was also born in Wisconsin Rapids and spent all her life in the area. As a young girl, her family moved to a small hobby farm north of Biron along the Wisconsin River. After high school she attended Madison Business College and following graduation, she worked in Research and Development for Consolidated Papers in Wisconsin Rapids.

In 1967 the couple built a house in the Town of Saratoga just south of Wisconsin Rapids and still live in that same house today! Before their daughter was born, they became foster parents for Wood County. They were foster parents for over 25 years and had 85 kids from babies to teenagers.

The couple's first son, Todd, was born in 1966 while they lived in Wisconsin Rapids. In 1977 they adopted a daughter, Katie, born on Feb. 27 that year. The following year In November 1978 their second son Ben was born. Daughter Katie now lives in Necedah and works for the US Postal Service. Son, Ben lives in New Boston MI and works as a controller for MW. "We knew we were getting old when our first son Todd retired from the Marathon County sheriff office," said Tom!



Susan's grandparent came from Bergen Norway and settled in Merrill. Susan first joined Sons of Norway in 1973 and initially attended meetings at the Wausau Lodge. In 1975 she transferred her membership to the Wisconsin Rapids lodge Elvedal 556. She was youth director (when we had young children) and lodge historian. In 2025 we joined the Stevens Point Vennligfolk Lodge 627.

Susan's main hobby is to knit. She likes to knit baby things then she will give them away. She also buys baby clothes and will send them to Alpha Women's Center in Milwaukee. Tom's hobbies are watching baseball games. He plays some golf when he can and he says, "I like going to Disney World too. In fact, I have been there 25 times! The most recent time being just last month, June 4 to June 12, 2026."

* * *

From the Editor: Between July 2019 and August 2023 a series of 23 "Getting to Know" articles were written by and about 34 Vennligfolk individuals and couples. The above article continues this series. If you would like to add your name to the list in a future edition, please volunteer to write up a brief "introduction" for a future edition or say "Yes!" when asked.

Tusen Takk!

Marvelous Success: Monarch Completes 1,800-Mile Journey!



In September 2024 **Kathy and Patrick McGrath** presented their program “**Marvelous Monarch Butterfly**” to Vennligfolk. They described the monarch’s life cycle which includes an incredible 1800-mile one-way migration to south central Mexico and then a multi-generation return to Wisconsin the following Spring. Following their presentation, several monarchs were tagged and released for the Fall migration. Two weeks later the McGraths released another batch of Monarchs from their home in Port Edwards, Wisconsin. This past February 2026 one of the tags from their release was recovered in a Monarch Sanctuary just west of Mexico City. It had traveled 1813 miles! The very excited McGrath’s said, “We have gotten other certificates over the years but had not received a confirmation in quite some time. This feels terrific!”

Carl and Lynn Rasmussen visited the same Monarch Sanctuary area in January 2023 in the mountains "just" 75 miles west of Mexico City. The maps below show the route the McGrath’s monarch traveled to get there!



Elaine Anderson & Rita Johnson experience the release of a “super-Monarch” for its 1800-mile migration to Mexico in Sept 2024

The Case of the Crispy Clone: Investigating the Bimbuñuelo

by Carl Rasmussen

On a 2023 road trip through Mexican, my wife Lynn and I stopped for snack foods at a convenience store. We discovered a package of sugary treats called Bimbuñuelos.



Their look and description sounded very much like rosettes. We had to try them!

We found them crispy, tasty, and sugar sweet like Rosettes. Their texture was a bit thicker and stiffer but still the similarity was so striking we wondered if the manufacturer, Bimbo Brands perhaps had not done a bit of cultural cloning without a proper attribution?

Investigating deeper we found that Bimbuñuelos are a commercial version of the traditional Mexican *buñuelo*—a popular, thin, crispy fried-dough pastry lightly coated in cinnamon sugar in the shape of a wheel. Although we never ran into it before on previous trips, apparently it is a staple Christmas treat throughout Mexico. It sure looks and sounds like a rosette though!



Historically, buñuelos are thought to have originated around the 11th century with the Moors who then controlled Spain and created the dish by frying dough in boiling oil when traditional oven fuel was scarce. Spanish conquistadors introduced buñuelos to the New World in the 1500's.

We were reminded of our 2023 road trip snack on a recent pass through the ethnic foods aisle at the Plover Walmart Grocery. There in blue glory were stacks of Bimbuñuelos! Give them a try if you are looking for a quick snack that looks and tastes a bit like a rosette.



Something to ponder: Between 844 and 971 AD several Viking raids occurred along the coast of Iberia and Spain. Could the Moors have learned the how to make rosettes from the Viking warriors and call them *buñuelos*? *Uffda!*



Team Norway Advances to the Round of 32!

As Vennligblad goes to print, Team Norsk must still play France Friday June 26. If Norway wins, they will face the third-place finisher from another group. Predictions are currently it will be **Sweden** on June 30 at 3PM CDT in New Jersey. (That would be fun!) If they lose, they will likely see the 2nd place team from Group E, most likely Ivory Coast, (11 AM CDT June 30 in Dallas) which be a tough challenge. Verify times & dates as they can be fluid! Any loss at this level means a team goes home.

No matter how Team Norsk progresses in the World Cup, their team photo certainly takes first place! For the photo, famous world photographer David Yarrow posed the entire team and coaches wearing Viking apparel near Oslo in front of three longships.



Erling Haaland (L) and Martin Odegaard (R)
Photo by David Yarrow ©

In Remembrance – Rachel Ann Favor



Rachel Ann Skundberg Favor, a beloved wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, and former Vennligfolk member passed away on May 7th, 2026, a week after her 88th birthday. Rachel Favor was born May 1, 1938 in Viroqua WI, the daughter of Reuben and Clara (Hanson) Skundberg and was raised in Westby, Wisconsin.

In fall 1956, Rachel enrolled at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, where she met the love of her life, Conrad A. Favor on the steps of the Memorial Union. In 1957, the couple moved to Milwaukee, and Conrad transferred to the Layton School of Art and Design, while Rachel transferred to the Milwaukee County School of Nursing. Rachel and Conrad were married on August 22, 1959, in the Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church.

Rachel ranked third in her nursing class and graduated with honors. Rachel often talked about how she was the first student nurse in the state to administer 5 FU injections, a new cancer drug at that time. She worked as

an RN for over 37 years and was a very hard-working and compassionate nurse. Rachel and Conrad moved to Stevens Point, Wisconsin in February 1962 and lived in a small trailer park in Park Ridge. Conrad worked at Sentry Insurance, and Rachel at Saint Michael's Hospital. She worked in OB and Medicine, and then later worked at the Rice Clinic in the Internal Medicine department.

Conrad and Rachel celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary in August, 2024. Rachel and Conrad created a life filled with memories. Both were Vennligfolk members.

Rachel is survived by her three daughters and their families: daughter Carrie (Robert) Butt, Stevens Point, WI, daughter Kristine (Adam) Payne, Plymouth WI, daughter Suzanne (John) Favor, Thousand Oaks, CA. Also mourning are her cherished grandchildren: Erik (Carly) Butt, Forrest (Courtney) Payne, Rachel (Jake) Grosenick, Ari (Brittany) Bault, Abby (Mike) Daly, and Kylie Hamilton, along with great-grandchildren: Emalin, Jett, Hollan, Sophie, Jayce and Laina.

A Celebration of Life for both Rachel and Conrad Favor was held on Friday May 29th, 2026. For a complete copy of Rachel's obituary please see www.shudafuneral.com/obituaries/Rachel-Ann-Favor

a little in English...

What did children eat as candy in the old days?

A child who lived during the Viking Age - more than 1,000 years ago - never tasted sugar or candy like we eat today.

But they had other sweets. The plant angelica was eaten like candy. It tastes a little sweet, but also bitter.

The Viking children may also have used resin as chewing gum, because people have chewed it since the Stone Age. Resin is a sticky and thick liquid that flows out of spruce and pine trees.

If they wanted more sweetness, they could eat honey and sweet berries and apples.

Now you can choose from a wide variety of different sweets. A child from the Viking Age wouldn't believe their eyes.

litt på norsk...

Hva spiste barn som godteri i gamle dager?

Et barn som levde på vikingtiden - for mer enn 1.000 år siden - smakte aldri sukker eller godteri som vi spiser i dag.

Men de hadde andre søtsaker. Planten kvann ble brukt som godteri. Den smaker litt søtt, men også bittert.

Vikingbarna brukte kanskje også kvaer som tyggegummi, for det har folk tygget på siden steinalderen. Kvaer er en klissete og tykk væske som renner ut av gran og furutrær.

Om de ville ha mer søtt, kunne de spise honning og søte bær og epler.

Nå kan du velge mellom massevis av forskjellige typer godteri. Et barn fra vikingtiden ville ikke trodd sine egne øyne.



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

Program To Be Determined
Sunday Sept 13 - 1 PM



Freedom Trail
by Andrew Griesman
Sunday Oct 11 - 1 PM



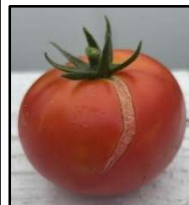
Help Spread the Sunshine! Our Lodge Sunshine Coordinator Bea Berg, asks if you hear of a member who has been ill, had surgery, a family circumstance, or something to celebrate, phone Bea at: [715-252-8853](tel:715-252-8853) or email to: beaberg96@gmail.com.



Takk and stay sunny!

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

Tusen takk



Ole: Lina, I figured out how to repair those tomatoes that always split open on you.

Lena: Really, what is it?

Ole: use tomato paste!

A local bike factory hired Ole. . . They liked his work so much that they made him a spokesperson!



Ole: Lena, I've been thinking about Cottage Cheese lately. You know it is not really cheese.

Lena: Hmm, really?

Ole: Yeh, it is something that just a curd to me!

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