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Trustee (2021-2023)
Ron Hensler.

Trustee (2020-2022)
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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 6

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

NOVEMBER OG DESEMBER 2022

Fra presidenten:



Since January of 1998 I have faithfully journaled the happenings of each of my days. Today I reread my journal

entry from Sunday, November 9, 2014 . . . the day I was elected Presidenten of **Vennligfolk Lodge**. Here's what I wrote - - *"I was voted in as lodge president tonight. Big job! Big shoes to fill! Oh my!"* Yes, I had big shoes to fill after the competent leadership of Milo Harpstead and Carl Rasmussen. It was a job that I wasn't sure if I could handle. But, here I am eight years later and on the ballot for **Vennligfolk's Lodge** President for the ninth time. My job is made easier by the talented officers who serve with me and individual lodge members. I appreciate every officer I have had the privilege of working with these past eight years. Included in this newsletter is the roster of candidates who have volunteered to serve for 2023. Election of Officers will be at our next lodge meeting on November 13, 2022. Please consider serving as an officer. I'm sure you too will find more support than anticipated and your appreciation for the lodge will grow.

Vennligfolk Lodge has lost another treasured member with the passing of Joyce Polson. I've known Joyce for many years as we were both teachers in the Stevens Point Schools. Joyce was highly respected in the school system, in our community, in her church, and in **Vennligfolk Lodge**. She joyfully shared her love of music, and through the years taught hundreds of children

to play piano and stringed instruments. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church enjoyed her talents as she was part of their music team. In our lodge, Joyce was a very active member serving as

Program Director, being a delegate to the District 5 Convention, participating in the Cultural Skills Program, decorating tables for Julefest, and hosting committee meetings in her lovely home on the river. Joyce and her husband, Francis, even presented a program on their trip to Sweden and Norway shortly after they became lodge members. Sadly, both Joyce and Francis's health problems prevented them from participating in our lodge for the last few years. The service for Joyce will be at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 20th at 1:00 PM. I plan on being there and will be wearing a Norwegian sweater.

As I am finishing up this letter, it is snowing outside - our first snowfall of the season. It certainly is a reminder of what's to come in the last two months of 2022. Of course, November and December also mean wearing warm Norwegian sweaters, watching football games, and enjoying family gatherings for Thanksgiving & Christmas. For many of us, a highlight of the Christmas season is celebrating Julefest with our friendly folk at **Vennligfolk Lodge**. This year's Julefest is on Sunday, December 11th. It is sure to be a *special moment in time* for all who attend this festive event. Watch for an invitation in the mail coming soon.

*Gledelig Jul og Godt Nytt År,
Susan Morton*

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

November

Farsdag (Norway) - 13
John Clifford - 18
Cindy Larson Kluck 26
Donald Romundson 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

Charmian Fournier- 3
Sally Prideaux -10
Judy Pesanka - 15
Elaine Anderson – 17
Andrea Brown - 17
Lori Johnson - 18
Carl Rasmussen – 23
Patricia Serio -24
Christmas Day -25
Carolyn Sommer – 28
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???

Exploring the Land of the Midnight Sun Sunday November 13 Lodge



Bea Berg, Table Décor: Lois Hagen

Member Patti Rous will share her June 2022 travel adventure of seven days in Norway's Lofoten 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:** Bea Berg, Jane Gjevre, Nancy Schroeder, **Marshall:** Jane Gjevre,

Julefest Sunday December 11 Planning Committee has been formed. Lodge members will get an invitation in the mail with event details. Extra help is always welcome to make the event a success! Contact an office member to find out how.

* * *

26th Annual Holiday Fest Arts & Craft Show returns to St Paul's United Methodist Church, Wilshire Blvd, Stevens Point, **Saturday, November 12, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Over 50 artisan booths and bakery; Holiday Fest Café: 11:00 – 1:30 p.m. serving Soup, Garden Salad, & more; hourly door prizes, Admission Donation-\$2.00 benefiting local holiday baskets

Scandinavian Boutique November 19th 9AM to 4 PM at: **NEW LOCATION:** 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



Help Spread the Sunshine! Bea Berg, our Lodge Sunshine Coordinator wants everyone to note a change in her phone number to: **715-252-8853** and also her email to: beaberg96@gmail.com. If you hear of a member who has been ill, had surgery, a death in their family or, something to celebrate. phone Bea. Mange Takk and stay sunny!

Happy Father's Day! Wait...What?

No, you didn't enter a time warp. We're talking about Norwegian Father's Day! It's celebrated every year on the second Sunday in November.

Originally in the 1930's, Norway celebrated in June like the United States. However, in 1949, the government changed the date to early November. This was done purely for economic reasons: it boosted sagging sales in shops in the runup to the Christmas shopping season. Other neighboring countries followed suit. Estonia, Finland, Iceland, and Sweden also celebrate their fathers on the same day.



So how can you celebrate your father, Norwegian-style? With gifts, of course! Common presents in Norway include hand-knitted items, coffee mugs, socks, ties, and gloves. Traditionally gifts are not extravagant, but rather are subtle tributes to a cherished parent. You can also make the day all about dad by making him breakfast in bed, or any favorite meal. Special desserts are of course always a favorite!

November 13th is coming up. Don't forget to wish a father a God Farsdag!



**August 18 Lodge Road Trip
to Scandinavia, Nelsonville, & Waupaca**



Warrior & armament demonstration



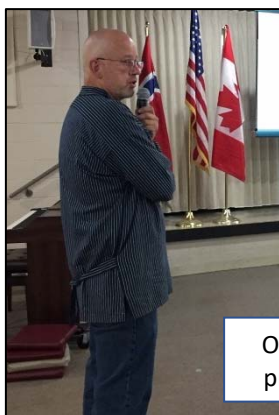
**Owen Christensen describes the Viking
longhouse he built now at UWGB**



**Viking reenactors, artisans and crafts at
Viking Fest at UW-Green Bay Sept 23-24**



**Julie Faust shared her life as an exchange
student in Norway and her current Norskie
themed Bakeri September 11 with her daughter**



**October 8, Jerry Trzebiatowski
presented "Not Just for Men"**



Stories of Viking age women



**Editor, Carl Rasmussen with
a "friendly" Viking**

Meet: Gene Numsen - Part 2

Our Sept-Oct Vennligblad introduced us to Gene Numsen's early years and his deep family Dakota history. Part 2 continues:

Another daughter was born to Ole and Eli on February 29, 1888 six weeks following the death of the "first Marie" and given the same name "Marie" a common practice of naming a newborn for an older sibling who had died. The "second Marie" lived into adulthood but not far as she died in 1911 along with her three-month-old son. They both died of tuberculosis and mother and son are buried in Peace Lutheran Cemetery in rural Alcester in the same casket. Marie was the wife of Robert Numsen, my great uncle on my father's side.

My great grandfather Stene died in March 1897, age 48 years, after being kicked by a horse. Five months later, his son, Elius, died, after being kicked by a horse. A farm was a dangerous workplace then, as it is now.

When Ole, Eli, and their children moved to Dakota Territory in 1881 they settled in northwest Union County southwest of Alcester in a farming community already occupied by other Norwegians. They joined the Roseni Lutheran Church which was organized in 1872 and affiliated with the Hauges Synod. Roseni Lutheran Church was named after Carl Olaf Rosenius (1816-1868), a Swedish lay preacher who was of extraordinary importance for the low church evangelical revival in all the Nordic countries. In 1917 the Hauges Synod, Norwegian Synod, and the United Synod merged to form the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

Probably since my Norwegian grandmother married a man of predominantly German descent I grew up with little knowledge of the Norwegian customs or food. I don't recall my grandmother ever speaking Norwegian. My grandmother, her sister, and a brother were all good singers and I do remember them singing in Norwegian as a trio. That same great uncle, Ole Stene Jr., along with one of his sons, sang in a Sons of Norway choir and I know that the choir made at least one trip to Madison, Wisconsin and sang. Ole Stene, Jr.'s wife was named Oline, not quite "Lena" but close; I never heard any Ole and Lena jokes about them, though.

In June 2000 my daughter joined me on a trip to Norway with Brekke Tours to participate in Orkdal 2000, a festival to commemorate the 175 year anniversary of the first emigrant ship to leave Stavanger bound for North America. This festival was organized by Norwegians now living in Orkdal to



welcome back descendants of those who had left Norway for the new world in the 19th century. Among the American tourists were some of my 2nd and 3rd cousins that I had not seen for decades. History was reviewed and tours of farms were held; the ancestors, including mine, of attendees came from the poorest farms high on the hills on both sides of the river Orkla. Dwellers of the fertile land in the river valley did not emigrate, they did not need to as they had a good life in Norway.

My third trip was in March 2002 when I joined a small group to ski in Gudsbrandsdal. The trip was guided and escorted as we skied from hotel to hotel. I hope to take another trip to Norway but have no definite plans to do so. One of my dream trips is a cruise in the Baltic Sea, which could be easily combined with a visit to Norway.

Earlier I promised to write more about my ethnicity. Having a Norwegian grandmother and a Swedish grandmother I was confident that I was one half Scandinavian. Since my Numsen ancestors were citizens of Germany and spoke the German language and my maternal grandfather was of German descent I expected that the other one half of my ethnicity to be mostly German but DNA tests by Ancestry.com show that I am two thirds Scandinavian (Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish) with the remaining one third being German and British Isles. The Danish component was a surprise but is likely explained by the fact that my Numsen ancestors came from Marne in Schleswig-Holstein in northwest Germany, which is only 100 km south of the Danish border.

Earlier I mentioned Spring Grove, Minnesota, where my Norwegian ancestors spent three years, (1878-1881) before moving further west. Spring Grove was a "jumping off place" for Norwegians who were headed for the Dakotas. The "Giants of the Earth" Heritage Center in Spring Grove is a valuable resource for those people pursuing their family history, especially for Norwegian Americans whose ancestors ended up further west. Rolvaag's novel, "Giants of the Earth", which is based on the experience of his wife's parents, is a work of fiction but I found something interesting on page 5, "...moving west from Fillmore County....". Fillmore County is immediately to the west of Spring Grove so Rolvaag's in-laws may have spent some time in Spring Grove, as my ancestors did. Most members of Vennligfolk were born in Wisconsin or Minnesota so their ancestors would not have passed through Spring Grove. Spring Grove is a short distance north of Decorah, Iowa and near the scenic Root River valley and can easily be visited as part of a trip to Vesterheim.

In Memoriam Joyce Wotruba-Polson 1940-2022

Joyce Wotruba-Polson, 81, of Plover, passed away on Thursday, August 11 at the Milestone Memory Care Home in Minocqua, Wisconsin with her children by her side. Joyce was born on November 9, 1940 in Superior, Wisconsin, the daughter of Gary and Dorothea (nee Panzenhagen) Tostrud.



Music was always a central part of Joyce's life. In high school, she not only played the trombone in the pep band but also won a cello/piano scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She graduated from there with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music, and, in 1965, moved to Stevens Point to teach elementary music. Joyce then joined the Stevens Point Symphony to play the cello. At the first rehearsal, she met a red-haired oboe player named Edward Wotruba Jr. The two were married five years later and together, raised two children, Frederick (Fritz) and Wendy, in their modern home on the Wisconsin River where she lived for 45 years. Ed passed away in 1992 and Joyce married Francis Polson of Wisconsin Rapids in 1999.

Joyce continued to share her love of music throughout her life as an orchestra teacher for the Stevens Point Area Public School District, teaching at many of the grade schools in the area as well as the orchestra teacher at SPASH. Along

with her full-time teaching career, she also continued as a cellist in the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra. She also worked with the American Suzuki Institute at UW-SP.

Joyce was an active member of the Stevens Point community. Joyce, enjoying bridge and book clubs, as well as being a member of the Sons of Norway. She was a charter and active member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Plover from its initial days meeting on Sundays in the local gym. She was always up for an adventure and traveled often. Friends and family always looked forward to receiving a call from Joyce on their birthdays when she would play a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday especially for them on her grand piano.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents Gary and Dorothea, and her first husband Edward. She is survived by her two children Fritz (Karla) Wotruba and Wendy (James) Guscette. Her four grandchildren, Trevor and Kirsten Wotruba and Sophia and Charlotte Guscette. Her second husband Francis Polson, and by her two sisters, Gail Stream and Kathleen (Clemet) Imhoff.

A memorial service for Joyce will be held on Sunday, November 20 at 1:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Plover, Wisconsin, with a visitation after the service. The Committal Service will be private. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established with the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra and can be sent to CWSO P.O. Box 65, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481.

Laila Rewolski, a Sons of Norway member from Hudson, WI was born and raised in Norway. She has an online Nordic gift store and offers discounts to SON members. She asked if we could include information in our newsletter. At www.nordicgifthouse.com lodge members will find treasures from Norway and beyond including Jewelry, Knitwear, Socks, Home Decor, Kitchen and Heritage Items. Be sure to enter **Discount Code SON10** for a 10% discount. This information is included as a service to our members. Vennligfolk Lodge makes no endorsement of the products and services of Nordic Gift house.

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Norwegian Potato Dumplings (Raspeball)



Photo credit: Food Norway; foodnorway.com

This traditional Norwegian dish is a perfect dish for the colder months of the year. These hearty dumplings also pair wonderfully with lamb meat, smoked sausage, or bacon. (What food doesn't pair well with bacon!)

Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 lb. shredded raw potatoes
- Heaping 3 cups potatoes, peeled, cooked, mashed, then cooled
- 1 1/4 cup barley flour
- 2 tsp. salt

Directions:

1. Mix the shredded raw potatoes with the cold boiled mashed potatoes
2. Add the barley flour and 1 teaspoon of the salt and mix
3. Put on large saucepan of water to boil and add 1 teaspoon salt
4. Form a round ball by using a tablespoon and your hand
5. Place raspeballer gently into softly boiling water and let them simmer for about 45 minutes.
6. Serve the dumplings immediately and enjoy!

Rakfisk Draws a Crowd!

If raspeball has your interest, how about trying some rakfisk, a.k.a. fermented trout? This week more than 25,000 people will descend on the small Norwegian town of Fagernes (pop. 2000) about 90 miles northwest of Oslo for the annual "Norsk Rakfisk Festival." The festival celebrates food traditions and features local products and handmade items. The main event, though, is always the rakfisk competition where judges taste, smell, and assess the texture of rakfisk brought in by several producers.

The 30th anniversary celebration runs from November 3 to 5 and promises to be an exciting one. To feel like part of the festival from afar, pair some fermented fish with lefse, sour cream, and onion. You may not draw quite the crowd as Fagernes, but you will have experienced yet another Norwegian food tradition! Skål!

Vennligfolk 2023 Officers Slate

Each year **Vennligfolk** selects officers and various leaders at the regularly scheduled November meeting. Terms begin at the following January meeting. For 2023, the following slate will be presented to the Lodge at our November 13th meeting.



2023 Vennligfolk Nominations

President:	Susan Morton
Vice -President:	Lois Hagen
Secretary:	Tom Johnson
Treasurer:	Judy Pesanka
Financial Secretary:	Arno Morton
Program Director:	Charlotte Hensler
Newsletter Editor	Carl Rasmussen
Newsletter Distributor:	Lynn Rasmussen
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:	Karen Trezbiatowski
Trustee (2023-2025):	<u>nominee needed</u>

Continuing Trustees

Trustee (2022-2024):	Carl Rasmussen
Trustee (2021-2023):	Ron Hensler

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



a little in English... And it happened in those days***litt på norsk... Og det skjedde i de dager***

¹And it happened in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ² This taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.

³ And all went to be registered, each to *his* own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee to be taxed (out of *the* city of Nazareth, into Judea, to *the* city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of *the* house and family line of David). ⁵ And he took Mary his betrothed wife, being with child.

⁶ And while they were there, the days *for* her deliverance were fulfilled. ⁷ And she brought forth her son, the First-born, and wrapped Him, and laid Him in a manger-- because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same country there were shepherds living in the field, keeping watch over their flock *by* night. ⁹ And lo, the angel of *the* Lord came on them, and *the* glory of *the* Lord shone around them. And they were grievously afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, Do not fear. For behold, I give to you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For to you is born today, in *the* city of David, a Savior, who is Christ *the* Lord. ¹² And this *is* a sign to you. You will find the babe wrapped, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of *the* heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵ And it happened as the angels departed from them into Heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Indeed, let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has happened, which the Lord made known to us. ¹⁶ And hurrying they came and sought out both Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. ¹⁷ And seeing, they publicly told about the word spoken to them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard marveled about the things spoken to them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these sayings, meditating in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as was spoken to them. ²¹ And when eight days were fulfilled to circumcise the child, His name was called JESUS, *the name* called by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Modern King James Version

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

¹ Og det skjedde i de dager at det utgikk et bud fra keiser Augustus at all verden skulde innskrives i manntall. ² Dette var den første innskrivning, i den tid Kvirinius var landshøvding i Syria.

³ Og alle gikk for å la sig innskrive, hver til sin by. ⁴ Men også Josef drog op fra Galilea, fra byen Nasaret, til Judea, til Davids stad, som heter Betlehem, fordi han var av Davids hus og ætt, ⁵ for å la sig innskrive sammen med Maria, sin trolovede, som var fruktsommelig.



⁶ Men det skjedde mens de var der, da kom tiden da hun skulde føde. ⁷ Og hun fødte sin sønn, den førstefødte, og svøpte ham og la ham i en krybbe, fordi det ikke var rum for dem i herberget.

⁸ Og det var nogen hyrder der på stedet, som var ute på marken og holdt nattevakt over sin hjord. ⁹ Og se, en Herrens engel stod for dem, og Herrens herlighet lyste om dem, og de blev meget forferdet.

¹⁰ Og engelen sa til dem: Forferdes ikke! for se, jeg forkynner eder en stor glede, som skal vederfares alt folket! ¹¹ Eder er idag en frelser født, som er Kristus, Herren, i Davids stad. ¹² Og dette skal I ha til tegn: I skal finne et barn svøpt, liggende i en krybbe.

¹³ Og straks var det hos engelen en himmelsk hærske, som lovet Gud og sa: ¹⁴ Ære være Gud i det høieste, og fred på jorden, i mennesker hans velbehag!

¹⁵ Og det skjedde da englene var faret fra dem op til himmelen, da sa hyrdene til hverandre: La oss nu gå like til Betlehem og se dette som har hendt, og som Herren har kunngjort oss! ¹⁶ Og de skyndte sig og kom og fant både Maria og Josef, og barnet som lå i krybben; ¹⁷ og da de hadde sett det, fortalte de dem det ord som var sagt dem om dette barn. ¹⁸ Og alle som hørte det, undret sig over det som blev dem sagt av hyrdene; ¹⁹ men Maria gjemte alle disse ord og grundet på dem i sitt hjerte. ²⁰ Og hyrdene vendte tilbake, og priste og lovet Gud for alt det de hadde hørt og sett, således som det var blitt sagt dem. ²¹ Og da åtte dager var til ende, og han skulde omskjæres, blev han kalt Jesus, det navn som engelen hadde nevnt før han blev undfanget i mors liv.

Det Norsk Bibelselskap 1930 Bokmål translation

Gledelig Jul og Godt Nytt År



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

Exploring the
Land of the Midnight Sun
November 13
Patti Rous, presenter
"Julefest 2022"
December 11



Ruud Ranks #2



In early September Norwegian tennis star, Casper Ruud advanced to play Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in the men's final of the

U.S. Tennis Open. Although Ruud lost in 4 sets, the level of competition ended with Ruud being ranked by the ATP (Association of Tennis Players) as the number two player in the world! The ranking placed Ruud at the highest level ever achieved by a Norwegian. The previous highest Norwegian ranking was by Casper's own father and coach, Christian Ruud who achieved a 39th ranking in 1995. Will Casper Ruud ever make #1? Time will tell. He has some very strong competition. Stay tuned.

Photo: Eric Bolte-USA TODAY

SON Foundation Scholarships Applications now open!



High school seniors and current college students- it's time to start thinking about 2023!

If you are a member of Sons of Norway or have a parent or grandparent who is a member, you can apply for a scholarship from the Sons of Norway Foundation.

There are a variety of scholarships available for college, trade schools, and study abroad, from \$1,500 to \$20,000+.

Go to the Sons of Norway Foundation website at <https://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/> to find out if you are eligible to apply. When you find one or more for which you qualify, read the Overview, Who Can Apply, and View Guidelines.

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