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Trustee (2019-2021)
Milo Harpsted

Trustee (2018-2020)
Mark Hansen, Jr.

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

Volume 27 Issue 3

MAI OG JUNI 2020

A SCANDINAVIAN-AMERICAN'S REFLECTION ON THE "GREAT WAIT"

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 has suspended all of our Sons of Norway meetings and other associated gatherings, I, the lodge Secretary, have no minutes to report. With us self-quarantining at home, it has given me time to reflect on our country's time of waiting for it all to end, or as the media has dubbed it, the "Great Wait."



Tom & Rita Johnson

I found my thoughts drifting back to days of long ago, when nearly all of us, as descendants of immigrants, had family members who chose to "self-isolate" from their immediate family and sail to America for land and opportunity. Some did so in the spirit of adventure, as did many of the Vikings of old, to see the new world they had been hearing about and the excitement it brought with it. Many others left from sheer poverty, such as not being the eldest son of the family and thus not inheriting the family farm.

Regardless of the reason they left, all faced the difficult, even heartbreaking task of saying goodbye to loved ones, not knowing when or if they would ever see them again. Travel across the ocean was slow, dangerous, and expensive. And once in America, though many were able to secure land, it was still no guarantee of prosperity. If a family member died on either side of the ocean, it was often impossible to travel in time for a funeral, or to even afford to travel. Waiting to see loved ones on the opposite shore could take years, if it happened at all.

Even for those now living in this country, there could be separation and long periods of waiting to visit loved ones. The place where immigrants first settled was not always where they ultimately ended up. In a country as large as ours, not all families stayed together in one place. Some chose to move away from immediate

family, seeking better opportunities. When they moved away, the heartache of separation was repeated. The graves of loved ones who had died there were sometimes left unattended because of the long distances and poor roads.

I write this not to compare the hardships of our ancestors with the hardships we are currently experiencing. We all experience hardships in our lives that are unique to the times in which we live. My hope is to encourage us with the knowledge that we come from people of courage, determination, hope, and faith. When hard times came, our ancestors always leaned on these traits to get them through. I believe those traits still exist in us, the descendants of those pioneers.

My great-grandmother, Carrie, was a woman who experienced more than her share of hardship. She left her family in Norway to come to America with her fiancé, Gilbert Johnson, to start a new life. She lived to see her husband and 5 of her sons die, many of them in tragic

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

Mai

- Ozz Hagen-4
- Mother's Day-10
- Kress Williamson-14
- Memorial Day-25

May						
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						

Juni

- Father's Day – 21
- Louise Lang – 24

June						
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				

Morsdag (Mother's Day) is celebrated in Norway each year on the 2nd Sunday in February.



Farsdag (Father's Day) is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in November.

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???

May 9 2020 (Saturday) **Cultural Fest 2020** Food, Fun & Around the World. Save the date and make plans to participate in our fundraiser for our lodge. 10am - 5pm - Stevens Point Area Senior



May 17 (Sunday) **Syttende Mai** Show your Norwegian colors and pride!



District 5 Sons of Norway 2020 Convention

Our History: A Continuous Journey

June 25-27, 2020

Madison Wisconsin



Idun Lodge 5-074, Madison will host this convention at the Stevens Point Area Senior Center. District 5 Vennligfolk Lodge will have three lodge members attending as well as several delegates.

August 13 (Thursday) **Midtsommer Gathering at the Rasmussen's** Enjoy a potluck meal, beautiful views of McDill Pond, an outdoor bonfire, a game or two of KUBB, great Norsk fellowship and possibly a boat ride. Meat, coffee and service-ware will be provided by the Lodge. Pot-luck on deserts, side-dishes, salads, etc. Located at 3136 Dans Drive, Stevens Point. Set up begins at 4:30 PM with the meal beginning shortly after 5:00 PM. Watch for a Lodge email should "Safer-At-Home" recommendations change.



Lodge Programs Rescheduled for Fall:



September 13, 2020 (Sunday) 5PM: **"Our 2019 Norwegian Experience"** Cindy and Mark Kluck will describe their "dream-come-true" 4-week trip to Norway complete with cozy visits with 26 cousins; fun surprises; stops at ancestral homes; and thrilling scenery

To be determined: **"A Norwegian's Battle for Breath"** Jedidiah & Kendra Haas will talk about Jedidiah's diagnosis at an early age, his battle with Cystic Fibrosis, receiving a double lung transplant in 2017 and his inspiring message of hope and faith.



November 8, 2020 (Sunday) 5PM **"Scandinavian Happiness"** Year after year the Danes, Finns, Swedes, Norwegians, and Icelanders, rank among the happiest folks in the world. Dr. Richard Ruppel, Emeritus Professor of World Languages and Literature, UWSP, will explore what these cultures have or do that produces this "happiness" and what we might learn from them.



REFLECTION ON THE "GREAT WAIT" *continued from page 1*

accidents. A relative of mine, who married one of her granddaughters, once told me that he asked her how she endured so much tragedy in her life. She just smiled and said, "Vee are Vikings, and vee can take it." I believe that each of us still has some of that same Viking spirit in us today, that spirit of courage, determination, hope and faith.

As we wait for the end of this current unnatural experience, we have hope, as our ancestors did, that the time will soon come when we will see our loved ones again, face to face. And like all those before us, we will experience the joy of reunion that will have made all the waiting worthwhile.

Respectfully, Tom Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Hurray, it's the 17th of May!



As Norway's most celebrated holiday, Syttende Mai honors the anniversary of the signing of the country's constitution in 1814. Over time, the day and what it represents to the people of Norway has evolved greatly. Historically, May 17 was a day of politics marked by speeches and rallies; today it is filled with national pride, festivities and tradition. Each year, thousands of people in Norway and around the world would normally take part in waving Norwegian flags, marching in city parades and professing their love of Norway. Many festivities centered on music, food, children, and graduating high school students.

This year because of the Covid-19 virus though, the celebrations will definitely be different and more muted. Already all parades in the major cities have been cancelled and smaller towns will likely follow. Alternate ways to celebrate are still being considered such as promoting a national anthem sing-a-long at 10AM; strict small gatherings with TV or internet connections to create one national event; or, even moving the gatherings to an August date!

How you choose to celebrate this year be sure to take photographs. The Viking magazine's "District Happenings Section" is the perfect place to showcase individual and creative Norwegian celebrations. Following Safer-At-Home guidelines can still allow for a memorable and meaningful holiday to share with others. For some "how-to" information, check out the Viking Photo Guide found in the Member Resources section of the SON website.

Vennligfolk Receives Recognition Plaque



District 5 International Director and Dovre 353 Lodge President, Robin Fossum sent Vennligfolk this lovely plaque and a kind note recognizing Vennligfolk's 25th Anniversary. Lodge members may remember Robin who presented a beautiful violin concert for our lodge in October 2018. Dovre Lodge is located in Barron, WI.



May 25 2020

Fra presidenten:



Vennligfolk Members, do you realize that all of us are a part of the time that the world *slowed down* to combat the silent war of Covid-19? This unprecedented time we are experiencing will be written in history books for future generations to study. I trust that like Arno and me, you have all been hunkering down at home for the last many weeks and are in good health.

Even though we are not meeting at this time, much has been happening. The Portage County Cultural Festival that was cancelled for this May is already scheduled for next year on Saturday, May 8, 2021. Jed Haas and Cindy Kluck (the speakers for our April and May meetings that had to be cancelled) have agreed to present their programs in the fall.

Congratulations to **Vennligfolk Lodge** member Bea Berg! Bea will be getting a "Golden Membership Special Recognition" award and pin for her long and faithful service in Sons of Norway. For several years Bea was our lodge secretary and now serves as our Sunshine Coordinator.

Vennligfolk Lodge received a beautiful wooden plaque from Robin Fossum, District 5 International Director. Robin included this note: *"A hearty, though belated, congratulations on the celebration of your 25th Anniversary of Sons of Norway membership. Since 1994, Vennligfolk Lodge has prospered and shared Norwegian and Scandinavian heritage with your members and members of your Wisconsin community. All through the ideals, dedication, and fraternal work of your founding and current members. And your loyal leadership."*

Vennligfolk's main fundraiser has always been the Portage County Cultural Festival. For the last several years we have raised about \$1,500-\$1,900 each time we participate in this one-day event. Our lefse and delicious Scandinavian baked goods always sell out quickly! One of our lodge members suggested a way to help offset the impact of the loss of funds we usually make at the Cultural Festival. It's called a "No Bake - Bake Sale." Here is how it works: In lieu of members purchasing ingredients used for making the kringla, lefse, rosettes, krumkaka, coffee bread, fudge, etc. that is sold at the Cultural Festival, members would contribute that amount of money to our lodge. A suggested amount would be \$25 - \$40 for couples and \$12.50 - \$20 for singles. Your officers are all in agreement to trying this alternative way of raising funds. In the near future you will receive a letter that includes a stamped envelope addressed to our treasurer, Judy Pesanka. Donations (of any amount) can be mailed directly to Judy. Tusen takk for your generosity in helping fund our lodge activities and expenses.

Our Midtsommer Gathering at Carl and Lynn Rasmussen's home has changed to Thursday, August 13, 2020. This will be a great "kickoff" to our new year of Vennligfolk programs and activities. It may need to be truly "potluck" as we won't have our usual sign-up food sheet for our picnic. Not to worry though, our lodge has the most generous and best cooks and bakers in the world!

I am so looking forward to being with all of you again!

Vennlig hilsen, Susan Morton

Bidos (Sami Reindeer Stew)

Source: www.recipereminscing.wordpress.com

Ingredients 4 servings

- 1.1 lb. filet of reindeer or reindeer steak (other big game or even beef can be used of course, but then the authenticity is lost)
- 4 Tbsp. flour
- 2 pt. water
- 4 potatoes
- 2 carrots
- 1/2 onion
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper



Recipe:

- Step 1 Cut the meat into cubes, and place in a casserole
- Step 2 Make flour thickening by mixing flour and about 3 ml or 1/2 tsp. of water (cold) Pour flour thickening and remaining water over the meat. Bring to the boil, stirring to avoid lumps in the sauce.

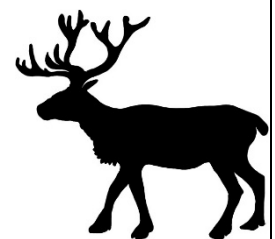
Step 3 Peel potatoes and cut them in half. Peel carrots and cut them into thick slices. Chop the onion. Put the potatoes and vegetables in the pot and cook until potatoes are tender.

Step 4 Season with salt and pepper. If you want a darker sauce you can add a few drops of caramel.

Serve bidos with freshly baked whole wheat bread, butter and cranberries

Tip: To get nice color and good taste on the dish, it is important to pour the flour thickening over the meat before starting to cook it.

Tip: Leek and other vegetables can be added to the casserole for variation. But then it is no longer a simple and authentic bidos but tastes incredibly delicious anyway!



Fly your Norwegian colors

When Norway became a sovereign nation in 1821, the Storting (Parliament) adopted a flag with the Nordic cross, similar to other Scandinavian countries. In the early 1800's, some countries were forming republics to better represent its citizens, and the red-white-blue of France and the United States flags influenced Norwegian flag creator Fredrik Meltzer to include those colors in the flag design. At the end of WW II, Norwegians flew their national flag banned by the Nazis as a celebration.

The Norwegian flag is flown on these holidays:

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day

Jan. 21 - Princess Ingrid Alexandra's birthday

Feb. 6 - Sami National Day

Feb. 21 - King Harald V's birthday

Easter

May 1 - Labor Day

May 8 - Liberation Day

May 17 - Constitution Day

Whitsunday (8th Sunday after Easter)

June 7 - Union Dissolution Day

July 4 - Queen Sonja's birthday

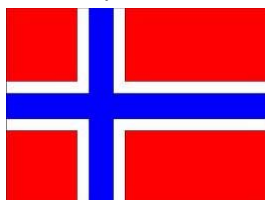
July 20 - Crown Prince Haakon Magnus' birthday

July 29 - Olsok (in memory of King Olav Haraldsson)

Aug. 19 - Crown Princess Mette-Marit's birthday

Sept - 2nd Monday (every 4 years) – General Election

Dec. 25 – **Christmas**



According to the Norwegian flag law of 1898 (updated in 1927) the Norwegian Flag is raised at 8 AM, between March and October, and 9 AM in winter months. The flag is lowered at sunset, but no later than 11 PM during the "midnight sun" times. In the far north parts of Norway, in the winter, the flag is only flown between 10AM and 3PM.

You can support the SON District 5 Nordic Legacy Foundation by ordering a NORWEGIAN FLAG directly from District 5.

\$ 30 - one Norwegian flag

\$100 - four Norwegian flags

\$250 - 12 Norwegian flags

Each flag is 3x5 foot made of 210 denier Oxford nylon with 4 rows of edge stitching on fly edge, designed for frequent outdoor use and they make fine gifts. Shipping included.

Make your check out to "SON D5 Nordic Legacy Foundation" Send your order to Mike Palecek, SON D5 treasurer, 5747 Sandy Lane, Racine WI 53406 c: 262-497-2761 or email: mikep@sonsofnorwayracine.com

All proceeds will be used to support Masse Moro & other District 5 Nordic heritage programs.

Cultural Skills Corner

Staying "Safer at Home" resulted in cancelling our lodge Cultural Skills work groups. However, all members can still work on completing projects at home and also filling out the documentation reports needed for Cultural Skill pin recognition forms.

These forms can be found at the Sons of Norway website: www.sofn.com. Once on the main page lodge members will need to log-in (or create a name and password if you have not previously logged in.) From there navigate to "Member Resources" then "Cultural Programming" and scroll down and select "Cultural Skills Program." There you will find information on each of the 14 skill areas, forms and in some cases, links to helpful YouTube videos.

Questions? You can always ask our Lodge Cultural Director, Karen Trzebiatowski at 715-824-7679 or send an email to: Karentrzeb@gmail.com. Karen also has access to forms.

Join the fun and see what you've been missing!

During her self-isolation Karen knitted these gorgeous looking hats and first shared the photos with the "**Stitchers Group**" members working on their Knitting pins.



Anyone with **Genealogy** questions can reach out to the group leader, Mark Hansen at 715-498-4155. New folks are always welcome.

Introducing: Sally Prideaux

Greetings. I am a new Sons of Norway member, and I come from Norwegian ancestry. Both my maternal and paternal grandmothers' parents were Norwegian immigrants to the United States in the mid-1800's. My paternal grandmother, whom I spent much time with, was fluent in Norwegian, but I didn't take the opportunity to learn the language from her. Although, she did share many of her family wonderful stories with me.



Scandinavian foods. Today, our family still enjoys these foods.

Peace Lutheran Church, located in Amherst, hosted a traditional, annual Smorgasbord for many decades. Our church members would prepare an array of Scandinavian foods, the members dressed in Norwegian attire, and community members would enjoy the feast.

My parents thought it was important for their children to travel and experience other cultures, thus we had many educational, fun family trips. As an adult, Jim and I have travelled three times through Europe. And, I traveled with my mother on a northern European vacation visiting Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Russia, and Sweden. One day, I look forward to visiting Norway.

Thank you to the kind members of the Sons of Norway in warmly welcoming me as a new friend. With recent retirement, I will have more dedicated time to further research our ancestry and also explore Norwegian culture and history through the Sons of Norway.

Jim, my husband, and I have lived in Amherst, WI, Bloomington, MN, Madison, WI, and we are currently back living in Amherst. Our adult children and their families live in the Custer area, Nelsonville, and Tempe AZ. All five of us are college grads with our alma maters being UWSP (Jennifer, Kristian and me), University of Minnesota (Jim) and University of Arizona – Tempe (Melissa). Over the past 20+ years, Arizona has been like a second home for Jim and me. We now look forward to longer, winter vacations in the southwest.

As a child, our family's holiday recipe favorites included lefse, fruksoppa, krumkake, sandbakkles, rosettes, Swedish meatballs, and so many other luscious

From the Editor: Over the next year we'll look to do articles on both new and long-term members. Lodge members are asked to submit short introduction articles on their own or kindly respond when asked.

Tusen Takk, Carl R. Editor

Finland Emojis



Finland is the first country in the world to publish its own set of country themed emojis. The Finland emoji collection contains 56 tongue-in-cheek emotions, which first appeared in 2016 to explain some hard-to-describe Finnish emotions, customs, and words that do not translate well. The emojis can be found at: <https://finland.fi/emoji/>



The **SISU** emoji for "the feeling of perseverance" is an example. In Finland, as the saying goes, "we go through even a grey rock." Arctic nature has given us guts – or "sisu." It's about not giving in – even when it might be wiser to do so. . .

Kalsarikännit or Getting Tipsy at Home in Your Underwear

Kalsarikännit or, literally "pantsdrunk" is one of those Finnish words that does not translate well but has been trending lately in the US since the arrival of self-isolation. It even received a New York Times write-up (4/3/20). Kalsarikännit has been referred to as the Finnish equivalent, "only with a rougher edge," to the Danish word "hygge" or "cozy" which also does not translate well. The loose description is "drinking at home alone on the couch in one's underwear with no intention of going out."



The word is even one of the 56 national Finnish emojis with a man hoisting a beer in his skivvies and a woman sitting in a slip with a glass of red wine.

*a little in English...***We're Recording History on Facebook**

History is being written in new ways in new media: local history is now often told by average people, according to Nina Kristiansen, editor of forskning.no, who writes this [excerpted] commentary:



A while ago, I joined the Facebook group Gamle Steinberg skole (Old Steinberg School). The school was demolished many years ago but has been revived on Facebook. That is to say: that is how it began—as a social gathering place for us who attended the old school.

Quite quickly, the group changed from “Hello” and “What year were you?” to what it has become today: a local historical memory book for a small town. Today, the group is a multitude of stories, memories, images and facts—which together tell local history in a whole new way, with brand new writers.

Golden times

In the Facebook group, it's about pastries at the café, about local bands and their short or long careers, and who lived in which houses. It is history told on a human scale. One of the participants obtains pictures from the archive in Eiker, while others find pictures in drawers and albums.

Nostalgia gets the most space. Do you remember? Yes, we remember how nice it was. In addition, we have also found new relatives, long-lost classmates and forgotten memories.

A new platform on Facebook

The older men of Steinberg used to gather for a long time at the bulletin board down at the train station. There they stood for hours, talking about the weather and the past. The women had similar gatherings in their sewing club.

Now we talk in other places, but the effect is the same. History is summarized, processed and continued. The benefits of Facebook are that it is more accessible and longer-lasting than chatting next to the bulletin board or around the table.

*litt på norsk...***Vi skriver historie på Facebook**

Historie skrives på nye måter i nye medier: lokalhistorien fortelles av folk flest. Og nå har også forskerne sett nytten, skriver forskning.no redaktør Nina Kristiansen i denne kommentaren.

For en stund siden ble jeg medlem av Facebook-gruppa Gamle Steinberg skole. Skolen er revet for mange år siden, men fikk nytt liv på Facebook. Det vil si: det var sånn det begynte – en sosial samlingsplass for oss som gikk på gamleskolen.

Ganske fort forandrer gruppa seg fra Hei på deg og Hvilket årskull var du? til det den har blitt i dag: en lokalhistorisk minnebok for et lite tettsted. I dag er gruppa et mangfold av historier, minner, bilder og fakta – som til sammen forteller lokalhistorie på en helt ny måte, med helt nye forfattere.

Gylne tider

På Facebook-gruppa handler det om wienerbrøda på kafeen, om lokale band og deres korte eller lange karriere, og om hvem som bodde i hvilke hus. Det er historie i menneskehøyde som fortelles. En av deltakerne henter bilder fra Eiker arkiv, mens vi andre finner bilder i skuffer og album.



Nostalgien får mest plass. Husker dere? Ja, vi husker hvor fint det var. I tillegg har vi også funnet nye slektninger, bortkomne klassekamerater og glemte minner.

Ny kampsak på Facebook

De eldre mennene på Steinberg pleide lenge å samle seg ved oppslagstavla nede ved stasjonen. Der sto de i timesvis og snakket om været og fortida. Kvinnene hadde lignende forum i syklubben.

Nå snakker vi på andre plasser, men effekten er den samme. Historia oppsummeres, bearbeides og videreføres. Fordelene med Facebook er at det er mer tilgjengelig og mer varig enn praten under tavla og rundt bordet.

Like Vennligfolk on Facebook!

Search for **@sofnvennligfolk**; or, **SOFN #5-627 Vennligfolk Lodge** on Facebook. Click “**Like**” and “**Follow**”. Lodge members Kathy Clucas and Patricia Serio are willing to help you get going if you need help.



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




SAVE THE DATES!
 Sunday, May 17, 2020
"Syttende Mai"

Thursday, August 13, 2020
Midtsummer Gathering
 Rasmussen's on McDill Pond



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's 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 15th of the even-numbered months. You may send it to Carl Rasmussen at 3136 Dans Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by e-mail addressed to: Vennligblad@gmail.com
Mange Tusen Takk, Carl Rasmussen, Editor



No-Bake Bake Sale

Many a time I am sure you say
 I would rather give a "Dollar" than bake today
 And so, we are asking you to help more or less
 To make our No-Bake Bake Sale a big success!

The cancelling of Cultural Fest eliminated our Lodge's primary fund source for this year. Please watch your mail for information on how you can participate in our No-Bake Sale.
 Tusen Takk!



Support Tubfrim. As you receive mail with postage stamps, cut the postage off leaving a ¼ inch boarder of paper. Bring your stamps to the next regular Vennligfolk meeting.



Pssst... Don't Keep Sons of Norway or Vennligfolk Membership a Secret!

As you go about your daily life, please speak up about your enjoyment of membership with those you meet. Share the fun of celebrating 125 years of friendship, culture and heritage with others in our community during this special anniversary year! Recruit a new member in 2020 and receive this fine Recruiter Pin from Sons of Norway