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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 the 'friendly people' of Vennligfolk and friends
Sons of Norway Lodge #5-627 for Central Wisconsin
Stevens Point, Whiting, Plover, Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids Areas

Volume 32 Issue 5

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

SEPTEMBER OG OKTOBER 2025

Fra presidenten:



Welcome to a new year of **Vennligfolk** programs and activities! After a summer break, we will resume our regular lodge meetings starting

on Sunday, September 14th. At our first meeting, we will have the opportunity to get to know our members from Elvedal and Myrmarken lodges who have merged with **Vennligfolk Lodge**.

Vennligfolk Lodge has invited the Stoughton High School Norwegian Dancers to perform for our October meeting. They will be performing in the gymnasium at *Woodlands Church on October 19th at 2:00PM*. (Please note change in date, time and place). This will be a program you won't want to miss! In fact, you will want to invite friends and family to come with you.

Recently, I did a little research on the Stoughton Dancers and found their history to be quite interesting. Here's a bit of their history: In 1952 Albert Moldenhauer, the head of Stoughton's school system, wanted the schools in Stoughton, WI to have a part in the community's first celebration of Syttende Mai. Although Albert was not of Norwegian heritage, he recognized the community's rich Norwegian heritage. So, he asked Jeanne Reek, a physical education teacher, to create a Norwegian dance group composed of high school students. Jeanne (of English heritage) had a limited knowledge of folk dancing and of Norway's customs, but she took on the challenge.

Reek handpicked six girls who then chose their partners, forming the group's foundation. They practiced during lunch hours and later added an

early practice before school! That was the foundation of the Stoughton High School Norwegian Dancers. Ms. Reek later made took trips to Norway to increase her knowledge of Norwegian folk dancing

From these humble beginnings, the Stoughton High School Dancers grew and prospered. The Stoughton community helped with refining the authentic folk performances. The bunads that the dancers wear are created in Stoughton, but all the patterns, fabrics, and threads come from Norway. Even the shoes and jewelry are imported from Norway. During the performance you will notice that the girls wear bunads representing various Norwegian districts, but the boys wear uniform attire.



To join the Norwegian dancers is an honor, not an easy feat, and quite a commitment. As seniors in the group graduate, their vacancies are filled by younger classmates who need to try out to earn one of the vacant positions. Besides having to learn and perform at least three simple dances that are judged. Each potential dancer must have at least five recommendations from teachers and coaches plus at least a 3.0 GPA or higher. There are usually 8-12 dancer vacancies each year and also tryouts for keyboardists to accompany the dancers. The chosen new dancers and keyboardists are announced after Stoughton's Syttende Mai Celebration, the third weekend in May.

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

SEPTEMBER

LABOR DAY-1

Bill Anderson - 2
Birdie Granum - 5
Mary Hansen - 7
Charlotte Nilson - 12
Rich Somers - 14
Remya Sarma-Traynor - 15
Sigrid Kahoun - 17
Nancy Schroeder - 25
Fårikål Feast Day - 26
Gordon Miller - 27

September						
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				

OKTOBER

Bea Berg- 7
VENNLIGFOLK - 9
LEIF ERIKSON DAY - 9
Polly A Nikolai - 29
Happy Halloween-31



October						
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???

Sept 14 5PM Get to Know Elvedal, Myrmarken & Vennligfolk The two lodges from the Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield areas are merging with Vennligfolk of Stevens Point, Plover & Whiting. Here's a time to meet and greet!

Sat/Sun Sept 20-21 21st Annual Wood Carving Show, Competition, & Sale
At the Holiday Inn, Stevens Point 1001 Amber Ave. For info contact **Jerry Trzebiatowski at 715-310-9900 or jeraldtd6Agmail.com** or webpage: <https://wisconsinriverwoodcarvers.org>

Oct 3-5 - Sons of Norway District 5 Adult Culture Weekend in Norway, Illinois.
The weekend includes historical presentations, classes and demonstrations of Norwegian Art/Skills; along with several meals with Norwegian specialties (including lutefisk); Norwegian barn dancing; and a Norwegian church service. **Please contact Patti Rous, Lois Hagen, or Susan Morton** to express interest and they will provide details regarding reservations, lodging, etc. for a group trip or on your own.



Oct 19 2 PM The Stoughton High School Dancers This group of high schoolers have been entertaining audiences around the world with traditional Scandinavian folk dancing for over 70 years. Their enthusiasm for traditional Norwegian culture is on display along with intricate footwork, athleticism, storytelling, and humor. Authentic Norwegian bunads will be presented in a bunad parade. Hosted by Vennligfolk, this family-friendly event culminates the Lodge's 30-year anniversary. Invite your neighbors and friends! Location: Woodlands Church, 190 Hoover Ave, Plover, WI. Cookies and coffee will be available, and a freewill donation accepted. Note the Date, Time, and Location change in lieu of our regular October meeting.

Nov 9 at 5 PM The Restauration – Then and Now
Presented by Patti Rous. 2025 marks 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 is being recreated this year with a landing planned in New York City on October 9 the same date of arrival 200 years ago.



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 Danish resistance intrigue by Arno Morton.



Sunday February 8, 2026 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.

Sunday March 8, 2026 To Be Determined Do you have an interesting story to share? Reach out to our Program Director, Charlotte Hensler at: chensler@wi-net.com (715) 592-4916

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



Grillmasters Kress
Williamson and
Arno Morton



Midtsommer 2025 was held again this year at the South New Hope Church June 24. Despite high temperatures outside, great food and conversation were enjoyed by Vennligfolk members and guests alike inside!

Pie Social at Schmeckle Reserve Menzel Pavilion



Thursday August 14

Scandinavian Culture on a Viking Ship

By Carl & Lynn Rasmussen



time to explore some of the ship's "Scandinavian roots" on display that escaped our attention the first time around.

Before this past year we classified ourselves as "cruise ship adverse." But then those appealing Public TV ads for Viking and rave reviews from friends, prompted us to take the plunge and give Viking a try.



the Bayeux Tapestry

Our first trip was last December sailing for 8 days from Rome to Athens along the coasts of Italy, Greece and Turkey. As cruising "newbies," we spent a lot of our time just getting oriented to where things were located such as our cabin, dining, entertainment, recreation, shops, elevators, stairs, etc. We accomplished this in between touring the exciting onshore excursions and missed a lot of details to be found on ship.



Light-filled, clean lines, & light woods

Viking Cruise Line promotes having ships of "signature Scandinavian design that celebrates our Nordic heritage." We were not disappointed. Public spaces were airy, filled with light, and outfitted with colorful fabrics, clean lines, light woods, and original Nordic artwork.



As we prepared for our Alaskan trip, we discovered our ship had an identical deck plan to the one we had just sailed on last December. This is because once Viking Cruise Lines settled on a design, they continued to build other ships using the same plans. They now have a total of 16 nearly identical "small class ocean cruisers" in their fleet and have been adding one

or two ships per year since 2014. Three more are under construction through 2027!

Since we did not need to repeat the process of getting oriented, we found more time to absorb the many touches and flourishes of Nordic Heritage to be had. Both contemporary and historical artwork are on display throughout



Bunads on Display



the ship. Located in the bow, the "Explorers Lounge" showcases Scandinavian heritage, featuring original artifacts, and displays.



The ship also contains a small museum charting Nordic culture throughout the centuries. Both front and aft, two main stair landings contain seven levels of floor-to-ceiling reproductions of key scenes from the Bayeux Tapestry. The 950-year-old tapestry recounts the Norman conquest of England in 1066 in the Battle of Hastings.



The midship atrium, devotes an entire open corridor wall to a display highlighting the regional bunads of Norway.

Consider exploring a Viking ship on your next cruise!



the Bayeux Tapestry displayed on the two main stairway landings

The Sloop Restauration sets sail for America



On July 4, 2025, a three masted sloop called the **Restauration** set sail from Stavanger, Norway to New York City. It is planned to arrive on October 9. Two hundred years before, another sloop with the same name also left Stavanger and arrived 14 weeks later in New York on October 9, 1825. The 2025 sailing commemorates this earlier endeavor.

The 1825 ship carried 52 passengers, and they are generally known as the first organized emigration party to leave from Norway to the US. This group came to be known as “the Sloopers” and initially settled in northwest New York state near Lake Ontario. Later the group would relocate to form a new Norwegian community on the Fox River west of Chicago in 1834-35. Today this area is known as Norway, IL. The Fox River Settlement is recognized as the first permanent Norwegian settlement in America.

The voyage in 1825 marked the beginning of organized Norwegian emigration to America. During the 100 years between 1825 and 1925 more than 850,000 Norwegians would follow the path established by the Sloopers. Nearly 1/3 of Norway’s population chose to leave their homeland

during that period! A formal group called the “Slooper Society of America” and celebrates their ties to the original Sloopers exists. The original **Restauration** ship itself would later come to be called “the Norwegian Mayflower.”

follow day-to-day progress of the **Restauration** at: <https://www.restauration.no/en> Click on the map.

In September 1964 President Lyndon Johnson signed into law declaring October 9 as Leif Erikson Day. It is interesting to note that October 9 is not associated with any singular event in Leif Erikson's life. The exact date of Leif's arrival to the Americas is unknown, but the Sagas state it was in autumn. The date was chosen because the ship **Restauration** arrived in New York Harbor on that day and it was already a historic date for Scandinavians in America. In 1929, Wisconsin became the first U.S. state to officially adopt Leif Erikson Day as a state holiday. Others would follow but Wisconsin led the way.



Plan to attend Patti Rous’ November 9 presentation to Vennligfolk and hear more about this spectacular anniversary crossing. Patti plans to be in New York City October 9 when **Restauration** arrives!

Photo Credit: Restauration Venneforening - at Kvitsøy

Editors Note: the village of Norway, IL mentioned above will be a fitting tribute location for the SON District 5 Adult Culture Weekend Oct 3-5 described on page 2.

New Golden Members at Vennligfolk!



The recent merger of Elvedal and Myrmarken welcomed a total of eighteen Golden Members to the Vennligfolk lodge! A Golden Member is one who is at least 65 years of age or older and has been a member in good standing for 30 years or more.

With Vennligfolk celebrating our 30th anniversary this past year, five of the original Charter Members have become eligible Golden Members. These members are: **Cindy Kluck, Louise Lang, Janice Flatoff, Jane Gjevre, and Lois Hagen.** In addition, **William Anderson** who first joined Elvedal in 1994 has also achieved Golden Member status.

All six individuals will be recognized with a certificate and presented with a Golden Member pin as part of our “Get To Know Elvedal, Myrmarken & Vennligfolk” meeting Sunday, September 14.

The length of membership requirement does not need to be consecutive years, and the total amount does transfer from one local lodge to another. Vennligfolk member, Bea Berg became a Golden Member in 2019 this way because of her prior years with another lodge.

Bea’s status plus our six new and merging members brings the total number of Vennligfolk Golden Members to 25.

Previously Golden Member status provided some financial benefit, but that went away in January 2018. Prior to that GMs had annual dues reduced by ½ for International dues while District and Local dues remained unchanged.

Artic Golf Marathon

Guinness World Records is reviewing the latest submission for a golf marathon record. Looking to break the previous 31-hour record, 25-year-old Issac Rowlands set out to play an uninterrupted 32-hour golf session at the Lofoten Links golf course in far north Norway.

During the marathon, Issac had four friends along with him as his team to film the entire undertaking and help keep him going when fatigue and discouragement set in. In his time on the course, Rowlands completed 182 holes and walked the entire course multiple times to cover a total of 54 miles.

Why Lofoten Links? Issac chose the location for its strategic location in the Arctic Circle, which would allow him continuous daylight and as well as for its beauty and challenge. There was round-the-clock daylight at Lofoten Links during midsummer.

Some of the official rules followed:

- *Filming non-stop for the entire attempt, with a live clock attached to his golf bag and supported by witnesses*
- *Teeing off within 3 minutes of holing out each putt*
- *Completing every round in under 4 hours, across dozens of loops*



Issac Rowlands - Photo Credit: SWNS

- *Walking the course with his own clubs—no carts or outside assistance*
- *Playing by official PGA golf rules,*
- *Only five minutes of rest per hour, which he strategically banked*

The avid golfer Rowlands started playing at 11 years old and is currently a PGA Assistant Pro in England. His efforts also raised funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, which helped with his care when he had a lymphoma scare a few years ago.

New Stamps from Posten Norge 2025



During the opening of a new exhibition at the Norwegian Emigrant Museum (Utvandermuseet) in Ottestad (about 60 miles north of Oslo), two unique commemorative stamps were unveiled in collaboration with Posten Norge.

The stamps mark the 200th anniversary of Norwegian emigration to America, featuring the emigrant ship *Restauration* and its planned arrival in New York. The official release date was June 12.



SON Moving to Paperless Renewal

To reduce costs Sons of Norway is offering a revised way to pay renewal dues on-line through their website at: www.sofn.com. Members can opt-in to continue to receive annual printed dues reminders and mail back a check or, as indicated, pay on-line using a credit card to pay annually or monthly.

Beginning September 1, SON will no longer send back printed membership cards. Once renewal has been completed, members can choose to print their membership card from their personal "profile" at the SOFN.com website. Annual dues: \$84 single, \$144 couple.

Norwegian Samosas!

Remya Sarma-Traynor recently instructed fellow members Patti Rous, Kathy Clucas, and Lynn Rasmussen on the finer points of making Indian spiced, potato filled Samosas with just a hint of Norway!



Photo Credit: Delish.com Joel Goldberg



The Best Dark Chocolate in the World

Chocolate lovers can celebrate a new winner declared during the International Chocolate Awards in the dark chocolate category. The top prize went to Vigdis Rosenkilde, a Norwegian chocolate maker for her 70% cacao Quellouno bar. She splits her time between Norway and Peru, where she sources the heirloom variety of cacao from a family farm. The combination of high altitude and other factors give the beans a unique flavor that varies a bit each harvest. The award-winning



chocolate only has two ingredients – cacao and sugar; but the process of making each batch is complex.

Rosenkilde's bar was judged alongside many other submissions and part of the International Institute of Chocolate Tasting competition, in which more than 50 judges select winners in various categories. By the end of the competition, four final winners were declared, including the dark chocolate Quellouno bar. The artisan credits letting the cacao speak for itself with its unique and complex flavor profile that included berries, pecans, cream, port wine, and hints of other fruits.

Salmon Loaf

by Marylee Hagen - Serves 2

INGREDIENTS

- 1 6 oz. can skinless boneless pink salmon
- 1/2 cup crushed multi-grain Club crackers
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp. parsley and thyme
- Lemon pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

- Mix together all ingredients.
- Put in greased small Pyrex or ovenproof bakeware dish.
- Bake about 45 minutes at 350 degrees.



Photo Credit: The Joyful Table - Susan Joy

a little in English. . . Leif Erikson

Leif Erikson [Leiv Eiriksson] was a Norse explorer, known for the discovery of Vinland around the year 1000. Leif and his companions may thus have been the first Europeans to "discover" America.

Leif was the son of the Norwegian-born Eirik Raude [Erik the Red] and his Icelandic wife Tjodhild. He grew up in Greenland.

According to Erik the Red's saga, Leif Erikson sailed to Norway in 999. Here he was baptized and commissioned to introduce Christianity to Greenland.

According to Erik the Red's saga, Leif went off course on his way home to Greenland from Norway in 999 and discovered a land with self-sown wheat fields and vines (Vinland). In the Saga of the Greenlanders, however, it is said that Leif's discovery of Vinland was the result of a planned expedition.

A Norse settlement was found in the 1960s at L'Anse aux Meadows, on the northern tip of Newfoundland in Canada. This has been interpreted as the Vinland of the sagas.

In 1964, US President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed October 9 as an official national day of remembrance in memory of Leif Erikson's discovery. The date of Leif's arrival in Vinland is not specified in the sagas, but it is said to have been in the autumn. October 9 was chosen because the Norwegian emigrant ship *Restaurationen* arrived in New York on this date in 1825.

litt på norsk. . . Leiv Eiriksson

Leiv Eiriksson var en norrøn oppdager, kjent for oppdagelsen av Vinland omkring år 1000. Leiv og hans følge kan dermed ha vært de første europeerne til å «oppdage» Amerika.

Leiv var sønn av den norskfødte Eirik Raude og hans islandske hustru Tjodhild. Han vokste opp på Grønland.

Ifølge Eirik Raudes saga seilte Leiv Eiriksson til Norge i 999. Her ble han døpt og fikk i oppdrag å innføre kristendommen på Grønland.

Ifølge Eirik Raudes saga kom Leiv ut av kurs på vei hjem til Grønland fra Norge i 999, og oppdaget et land med selvådde hveteåkrer og vintrær (Vinland). I Grønlendingenes saga sies det derimot at Leivs oppdagelse av Vinland var et resultatet av en planmessig ekspedisjon.

En norrøn bosetning ble i 1960-årene funnet på L'Anse aux Meadows, på nordspissen av Newfoundland i Canada. Dette har blitt tolket som sagaenes Vinland.

I 1964 proklamerte USAs president Lyndon B. Johnson 9. oktober som offisiell minnedag over hele landet til erindring om Leiv Eirikssons oppdagelse. Datoen for Leivs ankomst til Vinland er ikke presisert i sagaene, men det sies at det var om høsten. 9. oktober ble valgt, siden det norske emigrantskipet *Restaurationen* ankom New York denne datoen i 1825.





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

**Get to Know Elvedal, Myrmarken &
Vennligfolk**

Sunday Sept 14 at 5 PM
St Pauls UMC Stevens Point, WI

The Stoughton High School Dancers

Sunday Oct 19 2 PM
Woodlands Church, Plover, 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!

fra presidentin . . . Continued from page 1

In 1968, the Stoughton Norwegian Dancers danced for King Olaf of Norway during his visit to Madison. A few years later, they were invited to perform in Norway, in and around Oslo and Bergen. To date, they've made six tours to Norway. The Dancers have become both Stoughton's and Wisconsin's "Goodwill Ambassadors" as they have performed extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and Norway. Vennligfolk Lodge is very proud to sponsor these talented dancers and musicians' performance for our community!



Looking forward to seeing all of you at our first meeting on September 14th and again on October 19!

Hilsen, Susan Morton

Treasurer Judy Pesanka reports: As of Aug 6, 2025, the lodge showed a balance of \$5,744.23.

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