

Budstikken

Wergeland Lodge #5/028 P.O. Box 3591, La Crosse, WI 54602-3591

Facebook page: <u>Sons of Norway Wergeland Lodge</u>

November 2021

Volume 56, Issue 11

Fra Presidenten



Each November, the air turns crisp and the days grow shorter. It is time for warm sweaters and a return to holiday traditions. Thanksgiving is a great time to feel grateful for our many blessings, but it is good to share our blessings. Maybe it is a friendly gesture, a helping hand, or a thoughtful gift. A smallest act of kindness can go a long way to warm someones heart and brighten their day.

Our American Thanksgiving is always celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. It celebrates how the Pilgrims enjoyed a meal with

the Native Americans with thankful hearts for making it through tough times. I think many of our ancestors have similar stories to tell as they adjusted to living in a new country. As Americans gather together with family and friends, we give thanks. Most of us celebrate with a large meal and sometimes a religious service.

I am familiar with the American and Canadian Thanksgiving, but seventeen other countries celebrate with their own version. Traditions may be different, but the underlying sentiment is the same: it's a chance to spend time with friends and family and reflect on what is most important in life.

With a thankful heart, I'm happy to be meeting again with your Wergeland Lodge members! Enjoy the season and stay well. -Ramona J.



See p. 3 for an important announcement about the December Heritage Dinner! Tickets will be available at the November meeting. See p. 6 for additional announcements.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 4, 2021, 6:00 PM at the Radisson Center, 300 Front St S., La Crosse, WI

PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER

"Henry Hendrickson: The Blind Broom-maker"

Lunch providers for Nov 4 meeting

Sandwiches (2¹/₂ dozen): Vivian Sacia, Carla Burkhardt, Bev Ranis, Ann Sprain Cakes (18 pcs): Ilene Pavelko, Doris Henderson, Elsie Olson, Dee Johnson Pickles (1 jar ea): Lynn Curtis Cheese Tray: Darlene Erickson

Members are asked to donate \$3 per person at the lunch table for lodge expenses.

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Wergeland Kalender

- Nov 4—6:00 pm, Wergeland Lodge Meeting, Radisson Center, 300 Front St S.
- Nov 9—5:30 Board Meeting at Perkins
- Nov 15—Deadline for Budstikken articles
- Nov 25—Budstikken mailed to members
- Nov 30—Bell Ringing at Festival
- Dec 2—December Heritage Dinner, Radisson Center, 300 Front St S.
- Dec 6—Bell Ringing at Walgreens
- Dec 7—Rotary Lights Wergeland Program 6:00 pm



November Birthdays

- 1 Anna P Ofte
- 4 Birgitta Kathan Finn
- 4 Freya Kathan Finn
- 4 David Widener
- 5 Kathryn K Anderson
- 6 James C Halvorson
- 7 Edward C Johnson
- 8 Nancy R Loper
- 9 Julia L Forde
- 9 Torin L Loper
- 10 Paul S Amundson
- 10 Paulette S Widener
- 11 Michael John Everson
- 11 Laura A Gonia
- 13 llene Harriet Pavelko
- 13 Shirley A Lokstad
- Schoenfeld
- 14 Michael A Anderson
- 14 Greg P Hart
- 15 Theresa L Heiser
- 15 Kari Ellen Ofte
- 17 Erik R Coaty
- 17 Patricia L Green
- 18 Harley L Evenson
- 20 Wyatt Becker
- 21 Cecilia M Berg
- 21 De Andre J Casey
- 23 Mark J Dregne
- 23 Joan P Everson
- 26 Mary E Amunson 26 Winston Howe
- 27 Lois J Tolvstad
- 28 Susan M Carlson
- 30 Sally Louise Olson

Program for December

"Christmas in Bardu in Troms Fylke"

Sekretær Notater...

MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2021 RADISSON CENTER

The Wergeland Lodge of Sons of Norway gathered for treats and fellowship at 6 PM at the Radisson Center. The business meeting was called to order at 6:40 by President Ramona Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance and the three national anthems were sung. Guests were introduced and those cerebrating birthdays this month were serenaded.

Ramona announced the charter was draped in memory of Elaine Nelson who was a long time member of our lodge and held many offices and also was a member of District 5 Board. There was one visitor introduced.

The secretary report was not read as it was printed in the Budstikken. Shirley Schoenfeld presented the treasurer report. The foundation cans were passed and llene Pavelko introduced Emily Stark, the Sons of Norway Foundation Director, who presented an interesting overview of the recent donations the foundation has presented.

Ramona once again read the list of officers and committee members that are needed for 2022 and asked that people would call her and volunteer for those positions before the next meeting of our lodge. If our lodge is to exist after 2022, we need someone to be vice president next year and become president in 2023. The roster of officers and committees is printed elsewhere in this issue.

Ramona announced we have a sign up sheet for ushering at the community theatre in December and we need six people at each of two performances. Also she asked for sign ups for a trip to the museum in Peterson, Mn, scheduled for October 19th. We will meet in the former Sears parking lot to ride share and visit the museum and then have lunch together in Rushford at the lefse factory. She announced we have the 2022 calendars for sale and that several members have brought along various Norwegian products to sell tonight. The Friendship Gardens committee has asked that Wergeland help replace a troll that has been damaged and that they have raised \$800 so far. Donations will be accepted as several trolls will soon need replacement. They are contacting several other lodges in the area for donations also.

The raffle winnings were donated to the scholarship fund as well as Dave Glomstad's bike riding pledges. We thank you very much. Our college age members who receive our scholarships are very appreciative of them. The business meeting was adjourned at 7:30. There were 55 in attendance. Our Program was presented by our members Vivian Sacia and Richard Granum. They recalled their experiences attending and teaching at one room schools.

- Adrian Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Treasurer's Report as of Sept 30:

Checking: \$2,407.18 + \$335.23 income - \$1491.35 Expenses = \$1251.06 Balance Scholarships: \$160.50 balance Savings \$19,213.34 Balance Total in accounts: \$20,624.90

So Sven and Ole are walking home from the tavern late at night and they head down the railroad tracks, and Sven says, "This is the longest flight of stairs I ever climbed in my life."

"Christmas in Bardu in Tro

And Ole says, "Yeah, it's not the stairs that bother me so much, it's these low railings."

Tíl mínner om...

...Elaine Nelson (94) passed away September 25, 2021 at

her Assisted Living Home. She taught for 34 years in Whitehall, Holmen, and GET school districts. She joined Wergeland Lodge in December of 1989, was a Golden Member (32.5 years), was our President, taking over for Rev. Nelson the first year, and two years afterwards. She had other offices and was an active member who even translated friends' Norwegian letters. Our sympathy to her three



children - Jill, Deen, and Leif. She will be missed very much by her SON friends, family, and others. Blessed be her memory.

Q

Tusen takk...

...til **Eugene Johnson** for bringing his Rømmegrøt to share at the October meeting! Also, **Tusen Takk to everyone** who participated in our "Mini-Bazaar" sale!

HERITAGE DINNER--DECEMBER 2, 2021

Tickets will be available this month for the **December Heritage Dinner**. The meal will be catered by the Radisson as we meet in our usual location in the Radisson Center.

A **Buffet Meal** will be served. The menu is as follows: Caesar Salad, Beef Tips over egg noodles, Fresh Vegetables,

Dinner Bread, and Tiramisu for dessert, Coffee, Tea and Water. **Price per ticket: \$25.00.** Make plans to attend the November meeting and purchase tickets for this festive event. If you are unable to attend the November meeting, you can call and reserve your ticket. Call Marilyn Rudser, 608-612-0219.



ITEMS FOR SALE AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

We have about a dozen 2022 calendars left to sell at \$12.00 each. More are available but I (Adrian) should know soon if I need to order more. Call me and I will hold one or more for you.

We have a limited quantity of sweatshirts and caps available also. The sweatshirts are \$25.00 each plus \$2.00 for shipping and the hats are \$16.00 each. We also can get more of the Norway scenes playing cards but I have to order at least 10 decks to get the price down to \$11.00 per deck. Call Adrian if you are interested in any of these, 608-788-7507

November Program: "Henry Hendrickson: The Blind Broom-maker" by Mike Palecek

Henry's family came to the U.S. on the same ship as Mons Anderson, the "Merchant King" of La Crosse. Henry was a little younger than Mons, and they were lifetime friends.

At one point in his career, he came to La Crosse to seek business guidance from Mons. Being a broom manufacturer in La Crosse was the most successful time of Henry's career.

Mike is President of the Nordlyset Lodge in Racine/Kenosha and Treasurer for SON District 5. He also manages the Nordic programs and classes we have attended on Zoom.



From the October Program: "A Trip Down Memory Lane: The One-Room School"

Vivian Sacia and Richard Granum shared their memories and prompted remembrances from the audience about attending one-room schools. They both attended Maple Shade school and became educators themselves. They reminisced about the duties, teachers, lunches, and lessons in the one-room school.

Kent Sween (below) led the singing of Hils fra mig der Hjemme (A Sailor's Greeting).



Also in attendance at the October

meeting was the Sons of Norway

Foundation Director, Emily Stark

tion work for this year, including

(below, shown with **llene Pavelko**).

She gave a summary of the Founda-





us to consider writing a grant to help with restoring one of the trolls in the Friendship Gardens.

scholarships and grants.

In fact, she

encouraged





Dis og Dat



Wedding Bells - Congratulations!

Marissa Langaard and Eric Stoughtenger were married outside at Norskedalen on October 16th. The weather was good, and it was a beautiful place to get married. Many relatives and friends were there from near and far.

Marissa is a SON member, as well as her mother, Karen DeSchepper - Shirley's daughter. Here's a picture from that day.

Although you really can't see the golden locket under Marissa's pretty necklace, she is the 5th generation bride to wear the locket, originally given to

her great great grandma Helen (Moen) Maki by her husband Herman on their wedding day, then Alice Lokstad wore it, then Shirley, then Karen, and now Marissa. Marissa and Eric live in West Salem WI.

Looking Back

fem år siden (5 years ago) 2016

As a funding effort for Masse Moro camp, the District 5 board has put together and published a book entitled "Hidden Heroes: World War II Norway." The book contains 20 stories written by Sons of Norway members who experienced this episode in history first hand. \$5 from each book sold goes directly to Masse Moro camp.

Counselor Adrian Johnson closed the meeting by encouraging people to step forward and volunteer for Officer and Committee positions. He asked that peace and harmony prevail in our lodge.

Karen Hankee of Westby provided a program titled, "Making Heirlooms Usable Again and Creating New Heirlooms."

Uí år síden (10 years ago) 2011

The Onalaska Middle School PTO is gearing up for another

Bev Ranis and **Karen Broadhead** enjoyed a late summer trip to Alaska, traveling by air, train, bus, and cruise ship. Highlights were great museums in Fairbanks and Anchorage, a dogsled ride, the Sea Life Center in Seward, and being among the 30% who get to see Denali when the peak is not covered by clouds.

Joe Stekel won the door prize at the October meeting, complements of the District 5 Board. Congratulations, Joe...enjoy your trip to Culvers!

TROLLS! In December, we hope to have more information about our financial participation in restoring the Trolls at the International Friendship Gardens.

Raffle: The Vennelag Lodge in Mt. Horeb, WI, is holding a raffle: \$10 per ticket - first prize is one round-trip ticket to Northern Norway Sept 1-13, 2022 (or \$4000 cash). There will be 4 additional cash prizes ranging from \$100-\$500. The winners will be drawn on May 17, 2022. Contact Steve Frame 608-575-6786 with questions or if interested in tickets.

fun and educational evening to be held in the Middle School Commons. Each nationality group is given a table to display its foods, crafts, instruments or other items related to it culture. Carolyn Skogen will again be in charge of setting up our display of Norwegian culture.

Marilyn Rudser and Lil Malzacher caught a glimpse of the king and queen of Norway in Decorah on October 13th.

Jemten år siden (15 years ago) 2006

President Bing Skogen delivered seven copies of "History of Norwegian Settlements" to area libraries. He received thank you notes from the Commonweal Theatre, Norskedalen and the American Legion.

Cultural Director Ron Nowland presented Christine Hanson with a cultural awards pin that she earned researching her genealogy and writing an essay.

Sons of Norway Mission Statement

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.



2022 Officer Elections will be held at the December Meeting. Below is the slate of officers as well as a plea for 6 people to volunteer for some key roles. Thank you!!

From Ramona: Dear Lodge Members, Thank you for serv- The following positions are available: ing Wergeland Lodge during 2022. We look forward to many great times together as we promote and appreciate our heritage.

We need the following positions to be filled before January 2022. As your president, I am not a recruiter, so I wait for you to give me a call and say "I would like to serve."

- 1. Vice President
- 2. Cultural program director
- 3. Cultural committee member
- 4. Greeter
- 5. Marshall
- 6. Picture Editor

Thank you for giving this your consideration.

President: Ramona Johnson Greeter Assistant: Ron Nowland Vice president: Greeter Assistant: Counselor: Dave Glomstad Raffle Chairperson: Adrian Johnson Secretary: Kathy Anderson Lead Marshall: Richard Marking Assistant Secretary: Carol Pestel Marshall: Arlen Henderson Volunteer coordinator: Adrian Johnson Marshall: Gary Knudtson Membership Secretary: Kathi Beane Marshall: Mark Dregne Treasurer: Adrian Johnson Marshall: Assistant Treasurer: Kathi Beane Auditor 1st year: Sharon Smith Social Director for special meals Co-Chair: Marilyn Auditor 2nd year: Mark Dregne Rudser Auditor 3rd year: Linda Sherwood Trustee 1st year: Beverly Nelson Social Director for special meals Co-Chair: Char Trustee 2nd year: Adrian Hagen Smith Social Comm. special meals: Dee Johnson Trustee 3rd year chair: Dennis Sprain Budstikken Editor: Carla Burkhardt Social Comm. special meals: Elsie Olson Social Comm. Jan-Apr: Lynn Curtis Picture Editor: Social Comm. Jan-Apr: Ann Sprain Librarian: Pam Knudson Social Comm. Aug-Nov: Darlene Erickson Stamps Chairperson: Marilyn Rudser Social Comm. Aug-Nov: Pam Knudtson Goodwill-Fliptops Vivian Sacia Wergeland Dancers Chair Sandra Kawatski Social Comm. Aug-Nov: Linda Sherwood Co-Foundation director: Ilene Pavelko Community Theatre usher chair: Kathi Beane Co-Foundation director: Karen Saearove Salvation Army Bell Ringing Chair: Carla Burkhardt Rotary Lights: David Glomstad Zone 2 Dist. 5 Director: Karen Broadhead Sports Director: Carla Burkhardt Festival of Trees: David Glomstad Scholarship committee: Marilyn Rudser Cultural Program Director: Cultural Program Ass't Director: Mark Quade Scholarship committee: Laura Ira Co-Cultural Skills Director: Susan Corbisier Scholarship committee Chair: Kathi Beane Co-Cultural Skills Director: Sandra Kawatski Installing Officer: David Glomstad Musician: Karen Mathison Installing Marshall: Karen Broadhead **Musician: Mary Larson** Installing Marshall: Pam Knudtson Historian: Marlene McCabe Nominating Chair 2022 Shirley Schoenfeld Greeter and Raffle Sales: Kathi Beane

From Emily Stark, who presented at our October meeting: Applications for Scholarships open on October 1. This year we are offering 16 different scholarships, including, for the first time, the Elaine Nelson Scholarship for student members studying Business, Agriculture, or Education. You can find descriptions of all the scholarships we offer and apply on our website: https://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/. We encourage everyone to visit the site to learn more and facilitate applications. Donating to the Foundation is an opportunity to incorporate your passion for the Sons of Norway into your charitable giving plans. This year with our "Together We are the Future" fundraising campaign, we are trying to raise \$150,000 to support our grants and scholarship. Visit https://www.sofn.com/give2021/ to learn more and donate!



We had lots of great Norwegian items for sale at the Mini-Bazaar thrift sale!

October 18 Road Trip!

A nice-sized group traveled to Minnesota on Tuesday, October 18. Around 30 people visited the 1877 Peterson Station Museum (owned by our own John Erickson). Afterwards we shared lunch

together, some in Peterson and some at the lefse factory in Rushford. Then of course, some of us had ice cream in Rushford at "The Creamery". It was a beautiful and enjoyable day to be together.

Photos (taken by Stekels) from top: John Erickson explains the artifacts in the Museum; Kubestol from Frieda's father; Trolls; and finally, a good-looking group of tourists!





Lots going on!!

Besides getting your tickets for the **December Heritage Dinner** (see p. 3 for ticket information) and **serving on the board** for 2022 (see p. 5), there are lots of other opportunities to get involved:

Ushering at the Community Theater

Ushering at the Theater is something we like to do during the Christmas season. It is a good way to promote our lodge and fun to do! The play this season is "The Sound of Music." We need **two more people** to volunteer for the 12:30 -4:30 pm time on Sunday, December 19. Call Ramona, 608-788-7507 if you would like to usher this time.

Rotary Lights

Join us on **Tuesday, December** 7 from 6:00-6:30 pm at Riverside Park. We will sing some Christmas Carols in Norwegian. Contact Dave Glomstad with questions, 608-461-0583

Bell Ringing

The following are our times for Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army. If you can ring on **Dec 6 from 4:00-6:00 pm**, please let Carla know (608-317-3262).

Tuesday, Nov 30 at Onalaska Festival Foods: 2:00-4:00: Dee & Fred Johnson 4:00-6:00: Kathi Beane & Dick Marking 6:00-8:00: Shirley Schoenfeld & Carla Burkhardt

Monday, Dec 6 at Walgreens on Mormon Coulee Road: 12:00-2:00: Karen Broadhead & Bev Ranis 2:00-4:00: Ramona and Adrian Johnson 4:00-6:00: _____ & _____



A little in English...

Cleng Peerson – The Norwegian Emigration Father

After Norway had been rid of the Danish rule in 1814, Norwegian nationalism grew. Henrik Wegeland was "new Norway's" first poet and he became a great symbol of Norwegian freedom. The growing freedom feeling also lead to other effects. One of these was a large interest in emigration to America.

Cleng Peerson was born in Tysvær in 1782. Like many others who were interested in America, he was deeply religious. He belonged to the Quaker Church and in 1821 was sent to the state of New York to look into the possibility of creating a Norwegian colony. After 3 years he returned to Stavanger and advocated strongly to get a ship that could sail from Norway. Many within the Quaker Church in Stavanger were strongly convinced by Peerson and on July 4th, 1825, 52 Norwegians emigrated on the sloop "Restoration" from Stavanger. They arrived in New York on the 15th of October and the number was increased to 53. A newborn baby saw the first day's light on the way over the Atlantic Ocean. The newspaper "New York Daily Adviser" characterized the shipmen as "an unusual sight." The newspaper was interested in the oldfashioned clothes the Norwegians wore – fashion is not a concept that only belongs in the present.

Cleng Peerson led his fellow Quakers to Kendall Township by Lake Ontario where they were allocated land. But Peerson was an adventurous man and continued his travels through North America. On his voyage through the Midwest, he found the fertile Fox River Valley in Illinois. He then returned to his friends by Lake Ontario and persuaded them to move to Illinois. Odd Lovoll describes Cleng Peerson among other things as "Peer Gynt on the Prairie" – a description we can agree describes this adventurer. His ability to convince others was something he had plenty of! Peerson continued his traveling and died in Texas in 1865.

Lítt på Rorsk...

Cleng Peerson – Den Norske Utvandringens Far

Etter at Norge var blitt kvitt danske-åket i 1814, vokste den norske nasjonalfølelsen. Henrik Wergeland var det "Nye Norges" første dikter og han ble det store symbolet på den norske friheten. Den økende frihetsfølelsen ga seg også andre utslag. Ett av disse var større interesse for utvandring til Amerika.

Cleng Peerson var født i Tysvær i 1782. Som så mange andre som interesserte seg for Amerika, var han dypt religiøs. Han tilhørte kvekermenigheten og ble i 1821 sendt til staten New York for å se på mulighetene for å danne et norsk nybyggersamfunn. Etter 3 år returnerte han til Stavanger og agiterte sterkt for å få til et skip som kunne seile fra Norge. Mange innen kvekermenigheten i Stavanger ble overbevist av Peersons agitasjon og allerede den 4. juli 1825 dro 52 norske utvandere med sluppen "Restaurationen" fra Stavanger. De ankom New York 15. oktober og antallet var da steget til 53. En nyfødt baby så dagens lys på veien over Atlanterhavet. Avisen "New York Daily Advertiser" karakteriserte skipslasten som "et uvanlig syn." Avisen var opptatt av de gammelmodige klærne nordmennene hadde på seg – moter er altså ikke et begrep som bare hører nåtiden til.

Cleng Peerson førte sine kvekervenner til Kendall Township ved Ontariosjøen hvor de ble tildelt jord. Men Peerson var en eventyrlysten herre og fortsatte selv sine vandringer gjennom Nord-Amerika. På sin vandring gjennom Midt-Vesten fant han den fruktbare Fox-Riverdalen i Illinois. Deretter returnerte han til sine venner ved Ontariosjøen og overtalte alle til å flytte til Illinois. Odd Lovoll beskriver Cleng Peerson bl.a. som "Peer Gynt på prærien" – en beskrivelse vi godt kan tenke oss passer på denne agitatoren. Evne til å overbevise andre hadde han tydeligvis i mangfold! Peerson fortsatte sine vandringer og døde i Texas I 1865.

Cleng Peerson er med rette kalt "den norske utvan-

dringens far." Ikke bare organiserte han den første norske samlede utvandringen. Han sørget også for at de til slutt slo seg ned i Midt-Vesten – det som senere skulle bli hovedområdet for den store norske utvandringsbølgen 50 år senere. De første utvandrerne skrev hjem og fortalte om et "deilig og fruktbart land," og dermed visste stadig flere nordmenn hvor de skulle dra i Amerika.

Cleng Peerson is rightly called "the Norwegian emigration

father." Not just because he organized the first joint Norwegian emigration. He also advocated that, in the end, they should settle in the Midwest – a place that would late become the main area of the great Norwegian emigration wave 50 years later. The first emigrant wrote home and told about a "beautiful and fertile land," and therefore more Norwegians were informed of where they should go in America.



Image from traillink.com: Fox River Trail

Sons of Norway Wergeland Lodge #5/028 P.O. Box 3591 La Crosse, WI 54602-3591

NOVEMBER



OFFICERS TO CONTACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

President-Ramona Johnson 608-788-7507 e-mail address: ajrjathome@msn.com

Vice President-

Membership Secretary - Kathi Beane 608-783-3037 e-mail address: beane.kath@eagle.uwlax.edu Send notices of deaths or address changes to the Membership Secretary

Secretary– Adrian Johnson 608-788-7507 e-mail: ajrjathome@msn.com

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Norskedalen Activities

Thrune Visitors Center

Hours From Nov - Apr: Monday-Saturday from 9am--4pm Sunday from 11am--4pm



Admission rates for all programs with the exception of Heritage classes is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children, \$15.00 for families, and free for members of "Friends of Norskedalen."

All visitors, including Norskedalen organization members, should check in at the Thrune Visitors' Center for your admissions, wristband, maps and information.

<u>Norskedalen Members</u> may use the Norskedalen grounds 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset. Member parking pass must be clearly displayed in front windshield while using Norskedalen grounds.

<u>Non-members</u> may only use Norskedalen grounds during regular business hours and must check-in with office staff to pay admissions and receive a wristband.

> Norskedalen phone: 608-452-3424 Web site: www.norskedalen.org E-mail Address: info@norskedalen.org