Is It Really Over??

People in the Northeast are digging out of their third story balconies and wondering if there is another blizzard coming to add to their eight feet of snow! Vennskap snow-birds might have slipped and slid along southern state roads while Wisconsin residents ran outside to gaze into the brilliant sunshine on the one nice day in February! One happy line may be at the bank as they stand in line to deposit money into their accounts. They are the people who owned a snow-plow business or operated street sanding trucks. It was cold!

March will be different! People will once again be outside talking to the neighbors and flowers will once again be replacing snowdrifts. The latest word from our leader sounds like fun! Some interesting topics are in the planning stages and stories of Vennskap travelers will probably be shared. If you have experienced some unusual activity or know of someone who does, bring it up! After a long, cold winter, we are ready for some fun and fellowship.

Join us as we learn more about our heritage.

“Ja, vi elsker dette landet, som det stiger frem.”

Yes, we love this land of ours.

From the Scrip lady, Dawn B...
DawnBergsBaken@hotmail.com
(920)-860-1106
Scrip Cards Available or Place Your Order
Hei venner (Hello Friends)

Are you ready to start a new year of Vennskap meetings? I am, and I truly hope that you are too. I will be anxious to hear about all of your adventures for the last couple of months. Andy and I enjoyed our stay in Florida for the month of January and it was great to be able to get together with Art and Anita Thomas and Dick and Mary Ellen Peterson while we were there. The program and social committee will be looking for some input from you about programs for this coming year. If you have a program you would like to present or have some ideas, please contact a member of the program committee. The committee consists of Dawn BergsBaken, Ginny Mikkelson, Carol Wickland and Gary Henderson. I do have some dates for you to get us through until June.

Tuesday, March 17  Lodge Meeting 7pm  First Lutheran Church Manitowoc
Tuesday, April 14 Lodge Meeting 7pm  First United Lutheran Church Sheboygan
Sunday, May 17 Annual Banquet  Location and Time to be determined
Saturday, June 20 Annual Summer Picnic  Date Tentative/Location Pending

The program for March will be on Norse mythology and the April program will be the board of officers presenting information from the member survey sent out this past fall.

Our officers for 2015 have not changed. However, there are some changes to the appointed positions. They are: 1) Kelly Quick resigned last fall as our sports director and since we had no one volunteer to fill that position I have assumed that role in the interim and 2) Doris Fredericksen is no longer a greeter due to her move out of the area. I will have copies of the update officer list available at the March meeting. We will be having election of officers this fall so please give some thoughtful consideration to taking on a leadership role in the lodge. I will make every attempt to also have copies of the lodge membership list available at the March meeting.

Don't forget about the District 5 Masse Moro camp coming up this summer. The dates are Sunday, July 19 to Saturday, August 1. If you have a child or grandchild that might be interested in attending, information about and an application for camp are available on the District 5 website which is www.sonsofnorway5.com

I have signed up Vennskap Lodge to do a display during the month of May at Mead Public Library in Sheboygan. The display area is just inside the main entry doors of the library. This will be a good time to showcase Sons of Norway and Vennskap Lodge. I am looking for items/materials to display and volunteers to help set it up and take it down. If you are able to help, please contact me. There have been some new additions to our library. We have lots of wonderful material in our library so I encourage you to take advantage of the books, videos, music CD's, etc. Several of the cultural skills units available through Sons of Norway have been revised to make them more user friendly so please consider accepting the challenge of completing one and earning a cultural skills award.

March can still be a month with unpredictable weather so I will monitor the forecasts for Manitowoc and Sheboygan as our March meeting date approaches. Safety will be first and the meeting will be cancelled as needed. Stay warm everyone. See you March 17th.

Yours in vennskap,  Marge
March was originally the first month, but when Julius Caesar reformed the calendar, it became the third month.

What do you know about March? Get ready for a test. (The answers will be below.)

1. Which of the Roman gods is March named for?
   - Juno
   - Jupiter
   - Mars
   - Octurberos
   - Neptune

2. Complete this saying ‘Mad as a March ....’
   - Sailor Jilted bride Hare Hen

3. When are the first three days in March considered unlucky?
   - another snowday!
   - full moon
   - rainy day
   - bad day at the track

4. What is considered the flower for March?
   - pussywillow
   - poison ivy
   - dandelion
   - violet

5. The name of all the continents ends with
   - The letter E mountains
   - The letter A
   - A Consonant
   - The same letter it began with

   **(Extra Credit)**

6. viewing a statue of a military person on a horse in the park
   - The horse has one leg in the air, the rider
     - died of natural causes
     - is retreating
     - died as a result of battle wounds
     - is leaving as fast as he can

   **The Answers:**

1. Mars. Mars was the Roman god of war.
2. Hare. The behaviour of hares in the breeding season gave rise to the mad March hare saying. In Europe, male hares make wild chases and have boxing matches!
3. When rain falls. If rain falls during the first three days in March, it is supposed to foretell a bad harvest. Some superstitious farmers wait until the fourth of March before sowing crops. These days are known as ‘blind days’
4. The jonquil and violet are also considered to be flowers for March
5. the same letter that they start with.
6. died as a result of wounds received in battle.
   - If a statue of a person in the park on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

   Your youngsters will be impressed when you point that out this spring!

   Happy March!
Congratulations to William and Judith Block who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary January 23, 2015.

With many activities to choose from and a little nap now and then, Doris Fredricksen is enjoying life in her new home in Madison. She misses us and once again thanks us for her farewell party. We miss her too but she surely is in just the right place, at this time in her life, with family and friends close by. BTW: Doris and her granddaughter made sandbakkels for Christmas treats, just like usual.

Snow, wind and cold temperatures may be present, however, there also seems to be love in the air!

**Wedding bells and Valentines**

Laurie Shawhan found the antique Valentine at right in an ‘old box of memories’. “I ran across some WWI Valentines sent to my Dad’s brother, Gunder Nisja, in Hills, Minnesota, by a few ladies in Norway. These romantic post cards were in Dad’s possession. Translate anyone?”

While we were huddled under our afghans trying to stay warm, Liana Mecha was enjoying the sunshine in Tampa, Fla! She and friend, Greta, spent time on the beach, visited Busch Gardens, did deep sea fishing in the Gulf and scouted the flea markets!

“A Valentine from 1920 (She’s holding the Ace of Hearts!)”

We had a chat with our good friend, Doris!

“Here come the...Blocks”.

Congratulations and best wishes to Gary & Susan!

They “had to wait until after the Lutefisk Dinner” to be married”.

Mr and Mrs Gary Henderson
November 15, 2014.
I know 9 facts about you:
Fact 1: You are reading this.
Fact 2: You can't say the letter 'm' without touching your lips.
Fact 3: You just tried it.
Fact 4: You're smiling.
Fact 5: You're smiling or laughing again.
Fact 6: You didn't notice I missed fact 5.
Fact 7: You just checked it.
Fact 8: You're smiling again.
Fact 9: I TOLD You!

I TOLD You!

NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR LODGE LIBRARY
FEBRUARY 17, 2015
The following books have been donated by Louis Milsted

FOLK ART DESIGNS
by Jo Sonja Jansen - with two DVDs

ROSEMALING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
by Diane Edwards

Read a good book, lately?

Sláinte (SLAHN-ch)
(An Irish drinking toast)

Every year on March 17, the date of St Patrick's death, the Irish and the Irish-at-heart observe St. Patrick’s Day. What began as a religious feast day for the patron saint of Ireland has become an international festival celebrating Irish culture with parades, dancing, special foods and a whole lot of green.

Who was St Patrick? His real name was Maewyn Succat. His parents were Romans living in Britain, in charge of the colonies. When Maewyn was 16 years old, he was captured by pirates and sold into slavery to a chieftain in Ireland. While there, he worked as a shepherd. It was during this time he became fluent in the Irish language and turned to God in prayer. He escaped after 6 years of slavery, after experiencing a vision concerning a ship which would take him to Britain.

He became a priest and was given the name Patrick. In 432 he returned to Ireland as a missionary, converting many people in the next 40 years. He supposedly died on March 17, 460. Some believe he was also born on March 17, in the year 415.

A Shamrock Chuckle

I went out drinking on St. Patrick's Day. After a bit of celebrating, I took a bus home. That may not be a big deal to you, but I've never driven a bus before.
Summertime begins in Europe

March 29th

How can that be?

Summer Time in Europe is the arrangement by which clocks are advanced by one hour in spring and moved back in autumn to make the most of seasonal daylight...

Sound familiar? “Summertime” doesn’t have anything to do with the weather. It’s time!

We call it “Daylight Savings Time”!

The term “spring forward - fall back” is meant to trigger your memory to set your clocks forward one hour in the spring at the start of DST, and one hour back in the fall when DST ends.

In 2015 Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday March 8, 2015 at 2:00 a.m. local time. Clocks will shift forward 1 hour. This time is selected in an effort to provide the least amount of inconvenience to businesses and citizens.

Why do we do this??

Benjamin Franklin first proposed the idea of ‘DST’ in 1784. He wrote An Economical Project for the Journal of Paris, as he discussed the cost of oil for lamps as well as working while it was dark, and sleeping while it was day. Later, the rationale was to minimize the use of artificial lighting in order to save fuel for the war effort during World War I. Year-round DST, also called “War Time”, was in force during World War II.

Does all this cause any confusion?

British builder William Willett proposed the introduction of DST in 1905. He suggested setting the clocks ahead 20 minutes on each of the four Sundays in April, switching them back by the same amount on each of the four Sundays in September, a total of eight DST switches per year! (Imagine changing all our digital clocks!).

Arizona says “No DST here!”

Many people in Arizona including many businesses, farming communities and people with children, preferred to remain on MST throughout the year because daylight saving produced no personal benefits for them. They had tried it for one year in the 1960s but there was so much negative reaction that they never tried it again. States and territories in the United States that do not observe daylight saving time, aside from most of Arizona, include: Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

But there WILL be an “equinox”.

March equinox - equal day and night, nearly. There are two equinoxes every year - in March and September - when the Sun shines directly on the equator and the length of night and day are nearly equal, but not quite. This happens on March 19, 20 or 21 every year. It's called an “equinox”, derived from Latin, meaning “equal night”. However, in reality, equinoxes don't have exactly 12 hours of daylight. The March equinox has long been celebrated as a time of rebirth in the Northern Hemisphere. Many cultures celebrate spring festivals and holidays around the March equinox, like Easter and Passover.

March is interesting!
A CLASSICAL FREEZE?
Classical music has already played a starring role in the Winter Olympics. It is thought to help the ice crystalize to the proper hardness. Classical music seems to do the job; silence or other types of music have not proven to make a difference. Noise creates vibration and during the freezing process, those vibrations influence the type of ice you get. Maybe Dick Bronson has an opinion about this as he was in the ice cube business for years.

Snippets of news from Tubfrim!
In November and December those submitting stamps were:
- Carolyn Johnson: 6 oz.
- Anne Brucechet: 3 oz.
- Elaine Bronson: 16 oz.
- Vi Rue 1# 2oz
- Dolcye Johnson 2oz
- Mikk Mikkelson 5oz

These people had their names submitted for the drawing to win a trip to Norway! A card with the name of the person is sent to Sons of Norway in Minneapolis for every # of stamps submitted.

Vi Rue 4#s 11 oz - 4 cards
Elaine Bronson 1# 1 oz - 1 card

Thursday, January 15, 2015 was a lucky day for Violet "Vi" Hills, a member of Jotunheimen 4-499 in Billings, MT. Vi was the winner of the Tubfrim drawing to give away a ticket to Norway, worth up to $1,000. Her postcard was drawn from among 2,530 other cards.

Start snipping for the next year - 2015.
Ginny

THE LADY’S PAGE

Jere Solberg

LOADED POTATO SOUP
This is a Betty Crocker recipe, it is delicious and it makes a large pot of soup! I halved the recipe, omitted the ham and added a few sliced carrots.

• 12 oz pkg bacon
• 1/2 cup chopped onion
• 6 cups chicken broth
• 2# peeled, cubed potatoes
• 2/3 cup butter
• 3/4 cup flour
• 4 cups milk
• 1 tsp salt
• 1 tsp pepper
• 1 cup diced cooked ham
• 8 oz sour cream
• 2 1/2 cups cheddar cheese
• 3/4 cup green onions

• Cook bacon, drain and crumble. Reserve 2 tbsp drippings and cook onion about 6 minutes till tender.
• In large pot mix onion, broth and potatoes. Cook 10 minutes until potatoes very tender.
• In skillet, melt butter, stir in flour and whisk till smooth. Cook and stir 1 minute. Gradually stir in 2 cups of the milk. Pour into potato mixture. Add remaining milk, salt and pepper.
• Cook stirring constantly with whisk till mixture thickens.
• Stir in ham and half of bacon, sour cream, 2 cups of the cheese and 1/2 cup of green onions. Cook till thoroughly heated and cheese has melted. The remaining bacon, cheese, and onions are for garnish.

“The odds of going to the store for a loaf of bread and coming out with only a loaf of bread are three billion to one.”

Erma Bombeck
Goodbye, February! Hello, March!
(At one time, March was the first month of the year)

From the Crown Prince of Norway:
“Dra på skitur, gåtur, aketur, telttur, topptur, bærtur, fisketur, langtur - eller bare kom dere ut en tur! Det kan bli opplevelser dere husker hele livet,”
“The Year of Friluftsliv, 2015 (“open-air living”)”
“Go on a ski trip, hiking trip, sledding trip, camping trip, mountain top trip, berry picking trip, fishing trip, overnight trip - or just get outside for a walk! These can be experiences you remember your whole life,”
said Crown Prince Haakon.
“The best thing about being outside and engaged in outdoor activities is that it’s so easy! It’s just about putting clothes on - some skis or some shoes.”

From January 13th to the 14th there are many in Norway who sleep outside to celebrate the year of Friluftsliv - on their balcony, in the backyard, next to the water, in the forest or on a mountain.

In other news from Norway
“Ole” caused heavy damage in February.
In Norway, a winter storm named “Ole” hit the county of Nordland with full force February 7th in an area including the counties of Trøndelag and Troms. Winds of hurricane strength caused high tides and waves of up to 25 metres in height. In Nordland, the island community of Givær near Bodø had to be evacuated due to huge waves capable of washing out homes on the island.

Gale-force wind battering the mountain region of Southern Norway, according to NRK/Aftenposten) reports.

-- -- -- -- Norway was virtually divided in two after Highway E6 was closed at Namskogan in Nord-Trøndelag county. The road surface on a key bridge has been washed away by the extreme weather “Ole” causing power outages and traffic problems. Several thousand homes were without electricity and a number of roads in Norway’s three northern counties were closed, following the strong winds which hit the coast from Stavanger to Tromsø, stopping air travel and damaging buildings in the region. Damage was found all along the coast, with roofs and panelling torn off, with power lines and mobile phone base stations damaged.

VENNSKAP - What a great word and what a great meaning! It's become very meaningful for me these last few days. THANK YOU for the get-well cards and expressions of concern from so many of you! It is deeply appreciated. As it turned out, I could not have the surgery because of a significant case of bronchitis. But in the long run, I think I’ll be fine anyway. Maybe all those prayers helped. Sincerely, Anne