



Budstikken



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

September 2017

Volume 52, Issue 9

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Wergeland Kalender

- ♦ Sept 7, General meeting at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 612 Division St, La Crosse, WI
- ♦ Sept 12, 8:30 am, Board meeting at Perkins on Hwy 16 near the mall
- ♦ Sept 18, 11:00 am, Convention Steering Committee meets at the Radisson.
- ♦ Sept 18, Deadline for Budstikken articles
- ♦ Sept 27, Budstikken mailed to members.
- ♦ October 5, General meeting at Harry J. Olson center, 7:00

Fra Presidenten



Wergeland Lodge has handed out their college scholarships, the back to school sales are winding down and we are seeing some cooler temperatures. All of this of course means that fall is approaching.

One of the best things about living in this area is the change in seasons. A couple of weekends ago my wife Becky and I, along with our daughter Kristin, took a trip down the Root River from Houston to Hokah in our kayaks. We enjoyed a leisurely three-hour trip that included a vast array of birds, butterflies and foliage. Two Bald Eagles even followed us for a couple of miles flying just ahead of us and then waiting for us to catch up (sizing us up for a meal?). Although it is still summer, at certain times one could catch a cool breeze and the smells that come with the change of seasons.

I have been known to say that I think food tastes better in the fall which works in perfectly with our September meeting which will be our pie and ice cream social along with our annual concert. This year's event will be held at Our Saviors Lutheran church in La Crosse and will feature the music of Theodora Cormontan. Her music and life story will be brought to life that evening (see this month's program notes) by the talented duo of Bonnie and Michael Jorgensen. Come early, get a good seat and enjoy pie and ice cream after the concert.

Also, keep in mind that the nominating committee will soon be making calls to fill our officers slate for 2018. If called, please consider serving. I can tell you that it is a very rewarding experience.

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer, aside from the heavy rains that we experienced, and that you are ready to savor the autumn here in the Midwest. Take care and I will see you at the pie and ice cream social.
Dave

Next meeting: Thursday, September 7, 2017, 7:00 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 612 Division St, La Crosse, WI



Program for September

Bonnie and Michael Jorgensen will share this second presentation on the Norwegian-American composer Theodora Cormontan (1840-1922). Theodora emigrated from her native Norway to southern Minnesota in 1887 and spent the next 30 years of her life here, until she moved to the Aase Haugen Home in Decorah, Iowa, in 1917. Bonnie portrays Theodora (an accomplished pianist). Michael tells Theodora's story and sings.

The presentation features music by Theodora Cormontan as well as information and music from composers they believe influenced her work, including Edvard Grieg. They performed in Norway in 2015, donating the original music scores to the National Library of Norway.



The concert will be held at **Our Saviors Lutheran church in La Crosse**. After the concert we enjoy a **pie social**, so bring the pie that you signed up for. We will serve ice cream with the pie, so it is best to avoid bringing custard and cream pies.



September Birthdays

- 1 Barbara Anderson
- 2 Alice Gums
- 3 Beverly Mahlum
- 3 Carol Pestel
- 4 Stanley Berg
- 5 Florence Overgard
- 6 Paul Larson
- 6 Kent Sween
- 7 Audra Benish
- 9 Teresa Sacia
- 9 Hannah Schroeder
- 9 Kelli Skogen
- 10 Kimberly Gatica
- 10 Hannah Scholze
- 11 Lillian Malzacher
- 14 Joseph Stekel
- 15 Mary Berg
- 16 Rev. Donald Fox
- 16 Elise Melby
- 17 Rachel Dammon-Nokken
- 17 Orlando Wadel
- 18 Mary Hanson
- 20 Eldon Ostrem
- 22 Tia Hrudka
- 22 Stanton Jorgens
- 22 Vernon Olson
- 23 Doris Hagen
- 23 Morgan Jostad
- 24 Maureen Tostrud
- 25 Ruth Jostad
- 25 Travis Yenor
- 26 Alfred "Fred" Johnson
- 27 Ethan McGuire
- 27 Lois Preeshl
- 29 Thomas Larson
- 29 Bergene Wilcox

Program for October

Lilv Marit Haakenstad, genealogist and historian from Hamar, Norway, is visiting the area and will give a program about Cleng Peerson. Cleng Peerson brought the first boatload of Norwegians to America (New York) and later brought people to the Midwest as well as Texas. Prior to the above program, Corrie Maki Knudson, the new Sons of Norway Foundation Director, will bring us up to date on Foundation things.



Sekretær Notater...

Minutes of the August 3, 2017 meeting

President David Glomstad called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the three national anthems were sung. Guests and new members Carl, Lisa and Emma Johnson; Kimberly Gatica; Frank and Shirley Stekel, Scot, Ellie and Kara Stekel, Sam Stekel and Ann Berget; Rachel Trautmann; Nelson and Judy Aakre and Dave and Analise Ender were introduced.

The Treasurer's report for August was presented. Income of \$365.27 – Expenses of \$701.61 – leaving a balance in the checkbook of \$1712.54. The scholarship account balance had expenses of \$2000.00, leaving a balance of \$2513.50. The memorial account balance added \$.43 for a total of \$1724.41. The Savings account increased by \$15.90 for an ending balance of 5141.42.

Foundation Cans were passed while President Dave discussed the success of the July 20 Chicken Q and thanked everyone for their participation. He commended Gary Knudtson and Shirley Schoenfeld for all their planning and for the idea of asking members to contribute to the Salvation Army by purchasing tickets for meals donated there.

Members are invited to participate in the Holmen Corn Fest parade on August 19. Meet on Johnson St. on the south side of Holmen at 10:30.

Ramona Johnson announced that she had nametags to hand out to those who were expecting them tonight and she mentioned that she has the 50 year membership pin and certificate to present to Charlene Harnish.

Our September 7 meeting will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church and will feature a program about the career of composer Theodora Cormontan and a pie and ice cream social. Members were asked to sign up tonight to bring a pie and take some posters about the event to distribute around the city.

August birthdays were recognized in song.

Cathi Beane and Marilyn Rudser recognized the following students receiving scholarships: Kara Stekel, Emma Johnson, Samuel Stekel, Rachel Trautmann, Daniela Gatica, Alex Aakre, Emily Rodriguez, Travis Yenor, Ben Evenson and AnnElise Ender.

Raffle Drawing: \$120.00 collected, \$40.00 went to Annette Sherry for the 1st correct number; \$40.00 went to Emma Johnson for the 2nd correct number; and \$40.00 goes into the general account.

We sang "A People We" for the closing song.

(Continued on page 6)

Condolences til...

...John and Marlene McCabe on the death of Marlene's sister, Linda Johnson. She died July 30 at the age of 76.

...Florence Moe-Olson. Her husband Preston Olson (95) died on July 23, 2017. He had also been a member from 2008 - 2013. Our sympathy to Florence and the family.

...Chuck and Cheryl Hanson. Cheryl's father, Lew Fiero, Jr. (97) died on July 16, 2017 at the Bluffs in Red Wing MN. He was in WWII, and later retired after 21 years as a Lieutenant Colonel. Our sympathy to the family.



...Carol Nyland and family in the loss of past District 5 Board member and Publicity Director - Kenneth E. Nyland of New Glarus. Kenneth Eugene Nyland, age 84, passed away in peace on Sunday, July 2, 2017 at Agrace Hospice Care. Ken was born on March 23, 1933 in Madison, WI. Over the years, Ken was involved in many community roles. Some of these were being Municipal Judge, belonging to local organizations, VFW, American Legion, Sons of Norway, AFS, and more.

Some photos from the Chicken Q



CONVENTION

CORNER

The committee working on convention preparation is making progress for this event. The convention will be held June 27-30, 2018. We want to have items displayed that reflect our heritage. If you have needle work, knitted items, rosemaling, wood work or folk art in the Norwegian Tradition, start now to prepare. Items brought to the convention can be displayed, or placed for sale. We aren't bringing in judges but we will have a fun way of voting for "peoples choice" for each division.

Our July 20th Chicken Q was a success. We sold all of our dinners. Thanks to everyone for buying a ticket. A special thanks to **Dave Skogen** for the use of his parking lot and building, to **Shirley Schoenfeld** for making it all happen with her dinner donation to the Salvation Army idea and **Laura Ira** for the use of her canopy. Also to the ticket sellers, Shirley Schoenfeld, Karen DeSchette, Jenny Maxwell, Laura Ira, Ron and Frieida Nowland, Richard Marking, Fred and Dee Johnson, Sig and Marilyn Rudser, Vivian Saccia, Eugene Johnson, Adrian and Romona Johnson, Betsy Stannard, Florence Overgard and Carla Burkhardt. The Chicken Q workers, Laura Ira, Florence Overgard, Lynn Curtis, Karen Brodhead, Fred and Dee Johnson, Barb Friell, Betsy Stannard, Sig and Marilyn Rudser, Shirley Schoenfeld, Richard Marking, Kathi Beane, Carla Burkhardt, Rev Donald Fox and Pam Knudtson.

—The Convention Committee



For our August meeting, Wergeland member, **Hannah Scholze**, presented a program entitled "Using and Preserving Church Records" at the August Sons of Norway meeting. Besides being the President of the Holmen Area Historical Society, Hannah works as the Museum Services Associate at the Monroe County Local History Room in Sparta and is an avid genealogist.

In her program, Hannah discussed the value of church records in genealogical research. As vital records were not required by the State of Wisconsin until 1907, sometimes the only record of a person's existence is within a baptism, confirmation, marriage, funeral, or other church record. However, as older church records are often handwritten in Norwegian or another language, they can be very hard to read and interpret. Hannah will also offer some tips and tricks for how best to locate and search these important records as well as how to help preserve them for future use. [paraphrased from Hannah's provided bio]

Dis og Dat

Frieda Nowland had often wondered if "kubbestol carving" would show up again in her extended family in the tradition of her Grandfather Tarkjel Landsverk and her uncle Halvor. She grew up thinking they were just ordinary chairs, but as an adult discovered that most of them were in museums, or in the homes of relatives or in a few families with a strong Norwegian heritage. Over 20 Landsverk kubbestols can be found in homes in La Crosse, many in the Gundersen family because of their early interest in kubbestols. It was Dr. Alf Gundersen who made it possible for her Uncle Halvor to begin carving full time.

Imagine Frieda's delight when her daughter Naomi, son Jonathan and grandson Zachary all signed up for a week-long kubbestol carving class at Vesterheim Norwegian-American museum in Decorah the last week in June.

Those three Landsverk descendants were half of the class and the only ones who had never carved before. They were each given a "blank", a hollowed out basswood log about 24 inches long, big enough for a child's chair. All six in the class turned that rough log into a smooth shaped chair complete with a seat. Now the actual carving of designs can begin. It's a slow process.

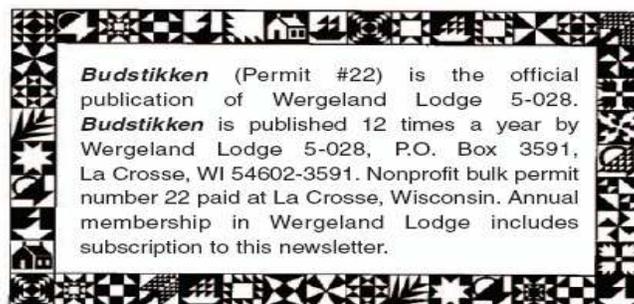


Naomi, Zachary and Jonathan pose with their "in-progress" mini kubbestols at Vesterheim's workshop as Frieda stops by to see how close their efforts are to Uncle Halvor's or even to Grandpa Tarkjel's.

Frieda is holding a "blank" which shows where they were three days earlier when they began their class.

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.



Dis og Dat (cont'd)...

Dick Marking and Kathi Beane flew to Texas to attend Dick's grandson's athletic banquet, graduation, and celebration. Before coming home, Kathi attended a bridal shower for Dick's granddaughter. Warm weather and wonderful family times were shared.

Claire Everson, unger venner, graduated magna cum laude from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire on May 20, 2017. She received her bachelor's degree in Chemistry with an emphasis in business. She accepted a position as chemist at Hydrite Corporation. In celebration of graduation, her family is traveling to Norway in August.

Gratulerer to Zachary Stekel who graduated in 3 ½ years from Luther College on May 23, 2017. He has already been employed by Preventice Technologies as a software tester.

Joe & Carol Stekel visited Savannah, GA, and Charleston, SC, in May. They enjoyed learning about, and experiencing, southern culture.

Glenn and Mary Borreson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 17 in Door County. Congratulations, Borresons!

Alex Hagen, grandson of Adrian & Doris Hagen, graduated from Holmen High. He plans to study diesel mechanics at Western Technical College this fall.

Arlan & Doris Henderson recently traveled to Seymour, IN, to visit their daughter, son-in-law, & grandsons. They also traveled by train to Corvallis, OR, to visit another daughter & son-in-law.

Rachel Grippen Storlie, daughter of Lee Grippen, graduated with a Masters of Music from the University of Northern Iowa in May. Rachel was a Wergeland dancer for 11 years. She will begin a teaching position at Luther College in Decorah, IA, in September.

Your librarian, Karen Scarseth, retired in January and has enjoyed travels to Scottsdale, Tucson, and Chicago. More travels this summer!

Sam Stromwall, scholarship recipient in 2015, graduated from the University of Minnesota in December 2016 with degrees in mathematics and computer science, and is now employed by Google in Mountain View, CA.

Gary & Sue Corbisier spent 2 months in Norway mid-May to mid-July. They were in the City of Kongsberg with their daughter's family.

Ron and Frieda Nowland recently visited their grandson Zachary Johnson in Midland, Michigan. While in college at Ames, Iowa he was a recipient of the Sons of Norway scholarship. Now he is happily employed as a Mechanical Engineer at Nexteer in Saginaw, MI.



Scholarship recipient **Ben Everson** attends UW—Platteville and majors in Mechanical Engineering, planning to graduate in 2020.

After Ben graduates from UW-Platteville, he hopes to get a job working as an engineer for an automotive company. He is also planning to travel to Norway this summer with his family.

Ben will use his scholarship towards his education to pursue his goals.

Ben is the Grandson of Joan Everson, and the son of Michael Everson.

(Continued from page 2)

Officers were thanked and the business meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Co-Cultural Dir. Shirley Schoenfeld introduced Hannah Scholze who presented a program about Using and Preserving Church Records.

There were 90 adults and 1 child in attendance. \$89.11 was received for Foundation Collection and \$185.00 for Table Collection.

Pam Knudtson, Secretary



Looking Back

Fem år siden (5 years ago) 2012

Ski jumping in Western Wisconsin was the topic for the September program, presented by Glenn Borreson. Stories and old pictures traced this activity from Norway to small towns and coulees in Wisconsin, including Westby and Eau Claire.

President Eugene Johnson and Moriah and Montaya Harter visited the Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp at the Beaver Creek Nature Preserve in Fall Creek WI, and were given a tour of the facilities.

A group of 21 Wergeland members and youth marched in the Holmen Kornfest parade. The lodge entry featured the Wergeland banner, a convertible, color guard, and a maypole.

Ti år siden (10 years ago) 2007

Arne Halvorsen, president of Birkebeiner Lodge in Lillehammer, Norway (our sister lodge), presented the September program about Simon Benson, a young man from a poor family in Gausdal, Norway, who came to America and became one of the richest men in Oregon.

Pauline Abel, a former lodge president and member for many years, celebrated her 90th birthday.

Ron and Vivian Sacia, Gene and Helene Gaarder and other family members and friends traveled through Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland for two weeks this summer.

Femten år siden (15 years ago) 2002

Barbara and Pam Culver presented the September program, speaking about Waldemar Agar, their grandfather and great-grandfather. He was a Norwegian immigrant author and newspaper editor in Eau Claire WI, who also had a large influence on Norwegian communities in the Midwest.

Wergeland Lodge now meets at the American Legion Hall in La Crosse.

Hjordis Helgestad was elected to the District 5 Board of Directors from Sub District 2. She will have a two-year term.

2017 - Tre-Lag Stevne

The Nordfjordlag WI will meet at Sugar Creek Bible Camp, rural Ferryville, on Saturday, September 2nd. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and is \$5.00. If you are interested in the noon meal, they would like to know that ahead of time and the cost of that is \$10.00. Send an email to: vivianschweinfurth@yahoo.com with that information as soon as possible. It opens with coffee and snacks and demonstrations and Blaine Hedberg will be the speaker for the afternoon session. Anyone is welcome.

Romerikslag/Solorlag Stevne

The Romerikslag/Solorlag joint Stevne will be held Sept. 13-16, 2017 at The Hudson House in Hudson, WI. A Stevne is a gathering of people who have ancestral roots or present day ties to a certain area of Norway. Romerike is basically Akershus County in and around the Oslo area. Solor is part of Hedmark County in Norway. At this years Stevne you will enjoy a rich combination of presentations, such as, "In Trunks, Hands and Hearts", about what the Norwegian Immigrants brought with them to the United States. "Norway in WWII and Norwegian Resistance to Nazi Occupation.", "Finnskog History", "Tips for Using the Digital Archives", and "The Battle of Kringen-1612." There will be an optional bus tour traveling to Woodville and River Falls, music, crafts, traditional foods and lots of friendly people.

Walk in's are welcome with registration fee. Banquet registration for Fri. night cut off is Sept. 8th. Check out Stevne registration information online at www.solorlag.com or call Kathy Johnson at 608 238-1785 or Mary Gross at 507-640-1417.

Some photos from the Kornfest Parade, Aug 19



Congratulations to students who received Wergeland Scholarships amounting to \$200 each at the August meeting. Funding comes from our monthly raffle drawings as well as memorials and bequests.



From the left: Ben Everson, grandson of Joan Everson, AnnElise Ender, granddaughter of Ardelle Ender; Emma Johnson, granddaughter of Ramona and Adrian Johnson; Rachel Trautman, daughter of Todd and Linda Trautman, Sam Stekel and Kara Stekel, grandchildren of Joe and Carol Stekel; and president David Glomstad. Other scholarship recipients include: Travis Clark Yenor, grandson of Adrian and Ramona Johnson, Daniela Gatica, granddaughter of Kathi Beane, Emily Rodriguez, granddaughter of Fred and Dee Johnson, and Alex Akre who is a member of our Wergeland Lodge.

Sons of Norway
Wergeland Lodge
#5/028

P.O. Box 3591
La Crosse, WI 54602-3591

SEPTEMBER 2017



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Norskedalen Activities

Throne Visitors Center
Hours From May 1 - October 31:
Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm
Saturday from 10am-5pm
Sunday from noon-5pm.



Guided homestead tours, when a guide is available, will be at 10 am, 1 pm and 3 pm Monday through Saturday, and 1 and 3 pm on Sundays. Self guided audio tours will be available in any event.

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."

Norskedalen Members 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.

Non-members 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

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