

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

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Calendar of Events

Jul 14 – Preparation for Annual Kaffe Stue (MHCC) 2 PM

Jul 15 – Kaffe Stue Luncheon and Bake Sale (MHCC)

Jul 16 -29 – Masse Moro Heritage Camp (Ages 9-15)

Aug 3—Board meeting at Culver’s Restaurant, 6:30 PM

Aug 19 – Brats in the lot at Miller’s Grocery Store...

12 workers are needed, as well as any kind of baked goods for the bake sale.

Sept 6 to 18—Vennelag Lodge trip to Norway

Sept 28—First Lodge meeting following summer vacation

Oct 7—Høst Frokost-Nordic Fall Breakfast (MHCC)

Due to our trip to Norway, from September 6 to 18, we will need to begin preparations for the Høst Frokost in late August. Member e-blasts will keep you up to date.

2017 Sons of Norway Zone 3 Picnic
Sunday, August 13, 2017 at 12:30 PM
John and Darlene Arneson home
2056 Skaalen Rd., Stoughton, WI 53589

Join members from our neighboring lodges for some food and fellowship at the home of John & Darlene Arneson. **Please bring a dish to pass!** Tableware, coffee, juice and other beverages will be provided. You are welcome to bring along yard games if you’d like. There will be **Kubb** available so you can test out your Viking skills!

For more information, call Darlene Arneson at 608-873-7209 or email arnesonfamily5@gmail.com

Directions from Mt Horeb: (2 options)

Come to Stoughton on Hwy 138. You can go all the way through town on Main Street and continue out of town on Hwy 51.

After about 1 ½ miles, turn left on Pleasant Hill Road. Come to a t-intersection with Skaalen Rd, take a right and we’re the first long drive way to the left. We have a Norwegian farm sign at the end of the driveway.

Or when you come into Stoughton on Hwy 138, take a left on Hwy 51. Go out to Hwy B and take a right on Hwy B (by Evergreen State Bank). Stay on Hwy B until you come to the 4-way stop sign at Hwy B and Hwy N (the county garage will be on your left). Go straight and the road turns into Skaalen Rd. Go about 1 ½ miles. We are the first long drive way on the left after you pass the housing development. We have a Norwegian farm sign at the end of the driveway.

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 its members.



Ord fra presidenten

Kjærer Venner,

Ahhh, Summer! School's out. The temperatures are warmer, thunderstorms are popping up from time to time, and evenings abound to leave the windows open. Special picnics and reunions call and activities galore are available to enjoy. Those who live in the northern climes wait for this season to arrive, and we know how to live life with gusto! I trust that your summer's agenda is well underway and that your family is enjoying the best that the season has to offer.

In Vennelag Lodge, we are preparing for our annual summer fundraising event, the Kaffe Stue (Coffee Room). It is a major production and showcases the pride our members have in their heritage, as they share their cooking skills with the larger Norwegian community around us. Our summer luncheon is well worth writing home about, but being Norwegian and a bit modest, we try to refrain! Each July hundreds of hungry Norskies are seated at our tables, and it is our pleasure to welcome them into our midst.

Phone calls have been made to our members requesting their help in supplying baked or cooked food items. A *For Members Only* workshop was held in June that prepared foods found to be in short supply. Helpful monetary donations have been given by those who plan to be absent on the day of our event. The grocery list was prepared, tablecloths ordered, the meatball recipe approved, and set-up changes were finalized. Thank you, members, for your contributions. As of this writing, however, we are short of workers. In the days to come, I will be calling our members asking for their assistance in filling the remaining positions.

An old adage says, "It takes a village to raise a child." In our case, it takes an entire lodge to host a successful event! I thank you in advance for your willingness to work, your contribution of food items or monetary gifts, and for the support YOUR lodge needs at this time. It is through this activity, the Kaffe Stue, that Vennelag Lodge can continue its tradition of hosting meaningful presentations, contribute to worthy community causes, and offer special activities of interest to our members and the community at large.

Cheryl



Join us for the Kaffe Stue!

Please mark your calendar for Friday, afternoon July 14th and Saturday, July 15th when we will prepare for and host our annual Kaffe Stue. Food deliveries will be made early Friday afternoon. Workers will be needed to wash lettuce, prepare vegetables, cut meats, make lemonade, and get coffee pots ready to perk.

At 2 PM our set-up crew will arrive to place tables and chairs in their appropriate locations, lay tablecloths and placemats, as well as complete other tasks. If you have a high school student in need of Silver Cord hours, please volunteer their service!

On Saturday morning, the kitchen crew will begin bright and early at 6 AM by making sandwiches, cutting fruit and preparing other foods for serving. Our experts in the pastries department will artistically prepare their trays for the serving table. A new set-up area has been designed for them this year. A plethora of additional duties will begin. YOU can make a difference by taking an active role in these smaller jobs. Simply report to the kitchen and we will find an important job for you!

For future reference, please note that the Kaffe Stue is held on the third Saturday of July each year. Share the details of our event with those you know and encourage them to join us in Mt. Horeb for Vennelag's Kaffe Stue on July 15, serving from 9 AM to 2 PM. An additional diversion for your friends that day is the downtown Art Fair. We extend a hjertilige velkommen-heartfelt welcome to all.



Scholarship award winners: Lydia Martin, Eric Iverson
 Silver cord award for community service: Martin Amundsen
 Vennelag Lodge President: Cheryl Schlessner



Jean Grindle and Nancy Kittleson are pictured above, packaging tasty, beautiful lefse, made at the Norwegian Baking Workshop for members on June 17.

Baked goods were frozen for the Kaffe Stue. Thank you to the following skilled cooks, and also to all the additional members who helped prepare for this huge event:

Sandbakkelser-Cheryl Schlessner and Ann Walser

Lefse-Duane Kittleson

Fattigmann-Nancy Kittleson and Jean Grindle

Sirupsnipper-Carolyn Johnson

Rosetter-Tiffany Schwoerer

Hurra for Syttende Mai!

Da boat was full and so was the bed of the truck as the S.S. Vennelag navigated misty seas and sailed the cold choppy waters of the 2017 Syttende Mai Parade in Stoughton. In addition to Vennelag members on board, friends of Ingunn Linnerud also joined us. The extended Martin and Schwoerer Families were also donned in their best attire and made the journey more fun. Members enjoyed a light picnic lunch provided by the Lodge before sailing. A big MANGE TAKK goes to Jane and Steve Frame who served as our driver and escort that day. As a surprise, The *Norwegian American* newspaper also featured a picture of our float. Takk til Dave Berg for submitting our photo!

Mount Horeb Frolic parade participants:

Jackie Brown, Guy Martin, Betty Martinson, Jasmine Salava, Hilda Oimoen, Carolyn Johnson, Tiffany Schwoerer, Nancy Kittleson, Bo Schult, Glenn & Lisa Schult, Marlyn Grinde, Duane Kittleson.

George Sievers was Honorary Grand Marshall in memoriam for the parade.



The next baking event is our **Fall Baking Workshop** for non-members, open to the community. Extend an invitation to a friend! This is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017, at the MHCC. Stay tuned for further details.



MT. HOREB'S DRIFTLESS HISTORIUM IS NOW OPEN!

On June 3rd, the doors were flung open wide on the new Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society's Driftless Historium located at 100 South Second Street. The chosen architecture for the project merges multiple generations together in a series of buildings reminiscent of earlier times in Mt. Horeb. The main entry façade is modern, beckoning younger people to stop in for a visit, too.

Marlyn Grinde, one of our Sons of Norway senior members, was part of the Grand Opening Festivities, and she was quite a hit! Marlyn enjoys sharing her history knowledge and is a volunteer at the museum at least once a week.

View for yourself the current exhibits and note the Norwegian pieces showcased there. You can be proud of our efforts to help preserve Norwegian American artifacts at the new museum. An interactive computer program allows one to visit the grounds of the former Little Norway property and see how the Norway Building appeared before it was returned to Orkdal, Norway.

The Museum has a small gift shop with good options appealing to many ages, including trolls and its own ice cream flavor—"**Troll Tracks**"! Troll Tracks will be exclusively available in the museum store during open hours. The Historical Society selected the student group "Campin' Cows" submission out of fifteen potential flavor candidates, using feedback received at the March 20 Mount Horeb Chamber of Commerce-hosted public taste testing (that drew more than 260 eager ice cream analysts!) and input from Society staff, volunteers and Board members. UW-Platteville will serve as the manufacturer and vendor of Troll Tracks ice cream, using milk from UWP's own Pioneer Farm and incorporating graham cracker pieces, milk chocolate chunks and miniature marshmallows, inspired by s'mores.



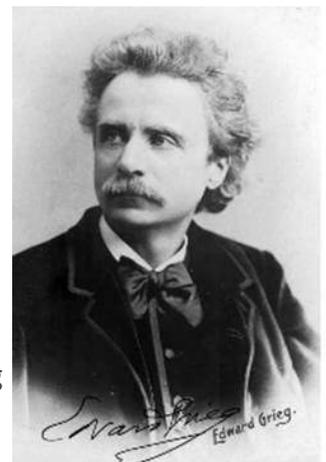
Driftless Historium is **OPEN Wed - Sun, 10am to 4pm.**

MHAHS Research Center open by appointment. Call 608-437-6486.

GRATULERER MED DAGEN, EDVARD GRIEG!

On June 15, 1843, Norway's most famous composer was born in Bergen. In addition to being recognized for his musical compositions, Grieg is also credited with giving Norwegians a sense of national identity during the union with Sweden. Today his legacy lives on through his musical works but also in the names of numerous schools and performing arts centers in Norway.

Locally, Madison's **Edvard Grieg Men's Chorus** sings his praises! They will next perform at the 150th anniversary of the East Koshkonong Lutheran Church (near Cambridge) on **Sunday, August 20 at 9:00 AM**. There will be a reception following the church service.



Join us at *Concerts on the Square!*

The 2017 season of Concerts on the Square in downtown Madison will begin on June 28th. The patriotic concert, scheduled for July 5th, is usually great. Attending any concert performed by the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra is a wonderful experience, but hanging out with other Norskies simply can't be beat! Meals and beverages can be purchased from vendors or ordered in advance, if you so choose. Two concerts have been chosen for Sons of Norway members. As in the past, we will gather near the statue of Hans Christian Heg, a great Norwegian-American from Wisconsin who served in the U.S. Civil War; his statue is located the top of King Street.

Bring a chair and cooler with beverages you like; beer and wine coolers are acceptable. The first concert selected is July 19th and the second the following week, July 26th. Music by Glinka, Stravinsky, and Mozart are highlighted among other pieces at the July 19th concert. The music of *Earth, Wind & Fire*, as well as songs by Michael Jackson will be played for your listening enjoyment on July 26th.

There is no need to make a reservation, just meet us there around 6 PM! Some of us will arrive earlier to secure a location for our group. We look forward to seeing you. More information about the summer concert series can be obtained at: <https://wisconsinchamberorchestra.org/performance-listing/>.

Aldeen Fjelstad



Summer Reading

Between Rocks and Hard Places is a book by **Ann Urness Gesme**, about "Traditions, customs, and conditions in Norway during the 1800s, emigration from Norway, the immigrant community in America." It is in the Mt Horeb Public Library, in the Norwegian Collection, 948.1 GES. Ann Gesme was born 89 years ago on a farm 3 miles south of Black Earth. She is a life member of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and she lives in Cedar Rapids, IA, with her husband, Dean H. Gesme Sr.

Lora Lee contacted Ann Gesme and here is what she wrote about herself and her connection to Mount Horeb:

I was born and grew up on the Urness farm, immediately west of the Vermont Lutheran Church – attended high school in Black Earth and graduated from St. Olaf college in 1949. I taught in Emmons, MN, where I met my husband's parents, Ed and Gena Gesme. His dad wrote Dean at Luther College in Decorah, and said to come home and meet the new teacher in Emmons. We were married the next summer and moved to Decorah where I worked at Luther while Dean finished his studies. We have lived in Cedar Rapids since 1958.

We have five grand children and five great grandchildren.. We have visited Norway many times, most recently in 1999, when we took our children and grandchildren on a pilgrimage to the places where our ancestors once lived.

I was one of those fortunate kids who grew up in a home with a resident grandmother, as well as another grandmother 2 miles down the road. The precious lessons and values they shared with me, as well as the wonderful stories of their childhood in Norwegian immigrant homes, provided me with a priceless heritage that led to a life-long interest in my roots. The end result of this was to write and publish four family histories, as well as **BETWEEN ROCKS AND HARD PLACES, a comprehensive account of life in rural Norway during the early and middle 19th century.**

My nephew, Jon Urness still lives on the Urness farm, and my mom, Emma Urness, was a member of the Sons of Norway Lodge in Mount Horeb. I have lots of Brager, Barsness, Urness and Dybdahl relatives still living in Wisconsin. Also, the Gesme family came to Wisconsin from Norway in the 1850s. When my husband's great grandparents retired they built a house on Main Street in Mount Horeb about 1894 – I think it is an insurance company now. Dean's grandpa moved to Iowa. So we have lots of connections in the Mount Horeb area.

Norge...Here We Come!

There are 43 people going on the **September 2017 Norway tour!!!** A reminder from Linda Mc Cormick at Borton Overseas Travel that final payments for any Lodge members who are traveling to Norway are due on July 5th.

Please refer to Linda's helpful suggestions for further travel purchases. Your local bank should be able to help you secure Norwegian kroner in advance of the trip. 850 Norwegian kroner equals roughly 100 US Dollars. Values fluctuate, but you can follow the latest exchange rates on-line.

- Credit card companies appreciate advance notice of travel outside of your normal area.
- Phone companies offer international calling plans, if you need to be connected while overseas.
- Lithium batteries are no longer allowed on some flights, so prepare for this in advance of your travel.



*** A small number of **Thams Pavilion pins** which commemorate the rededication of the former stave kirke replica from Little Norway remain. It would be proper to wear these pins on the day of the ceremony in Orkdal. If all are sold, we can contact the Orkdal committee for additional pins.

The cost for Lodge members is \$13.00. Others from outside of the Lodge may also make a pin purchase. The cost for nonmembers is \$15.00. Please contact Cheryl to purchase.

Velkommen til...

Six new members have joined Vennelag Lodge over the course of the last few weeks. We welcome: *Charles Spotts, Kathleen Wulff, Allen Watrud, Lawrence Jenkins, Mary Sue Thompson* and *Jillian Holle*, as well as *Unger Venner* members *Tamara Schmoock* and *Cassidy De Witt*.

Members, if YOU know someone who has an interest in joining Vennelag Lodge, please contact **Carolyn Johnson**, our membership secretary, for further assistance at: 608-424-3149. You may also reach her via e-mail: cmj@chorus.net.

Individuals may also apply directly on-line at sofn.com. At the bottom of the main web page is a box to check for new membership. Our lodge number is 5-513.

* Membership materials will also be available at our Kaffe Stue in July, if you have asked guests to join us. Please let Carolyn or Cheryl know, and we will provide the membership application they need. *Takk skal du ha!*

Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email so the newsletter will be received by you in a timely manner. You may also make a change from/to receiving a printed mailed copy or to an email notification.

Duane Kittleson
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Madison, WI 53705
Phone: 608-229-6738
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Keep Calm and

Uff-da On!

Please support Norwegian-American heritage with a Masse Moro donation

Masse Moro is Sons of Norway's District 5 Norwegian heritage summer camp for children. As a "tusen takk" for your donation, you can get the book *Hidden Heroes: World War II in Norway*. These twenty eyewitness accounts were originally collected from Sons of Norway members by then-District 5 Cultural Director, Jean Bittner. We hope these accounts help you remember the acts of bravery that everyday heroes made in Norway in World War II.

Consider ordering multiple copies as Christmas gifts for your children and grandchildren. It is a gift to help us all further understand our heritage and Norwegian character. Living in Norway during World War II, you never knew if the person next door was a hero; a Norwegian resistance fighter. The hero next door could be a teenager going with his dad to steal grain from a Nazi train, in order to feed refugees. It could be a girl who hid messages in her instrument case, while going by bike to a violin lesson. It could be the fisherman down the street, rowing a boat full of grenades, with a German U-boat captain sitting on the seat which was hiding them. Many Norwegians risked their lives to thwart the Nazis who were occupying their country. These are their true stories.

If you haven't earned a SON literature cultural skills pin, this book is a great way to get started.

ORDER FORM - HIDDEN HEROES: WORLD WAR II IN NORWAY

_____ \$20 (1 book)

_____ \$25 (Masse Moro donation for 1 book)

_____ \$100 (Masse Moro donation for 5 books)

_____ \$250 (Masse Moro donation for 15 books)

_____ \$500 (Masse Moro donation for 33 books)

I want to make a \$_____ donation, and receive only _____ books

Make checks out to "Sons of Norway District 5"

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / St / Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Lodge: _____

Send your order to:

Mike Palecek, SON D5 Treasurer, 5747 Sandy Lane, Racine WI 53406

Allow 3 weeks for printing and shipping (shipping to one location)



Vennelag News

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**Next Newsletter Deadline:
August 15, 2017 (early!)**

NORDIC FEST—DECORAH, IOWA!

Details on Nordic Fest can be found on the Chamber webpage:
www.nordicfest.com Dates: July 27-29, 2017

Mandt Lodge in Stoughton is taking a coach bus to Decorah and they will make a stop in Mount Horeb. See Cheryl for registration forms.



HIDDEN HEROES: WORLD WAR II IN NORWAY

At the *Syttende Mai* celebration in May, we shared the Harald and Sigrid Bratrud Family story. This is one of numerous stories in a collection compiled by the 5th District of Sons of Norway. Additional books are available for purchase at the cost of \$20.00 per copy. For an additional \$5.00 donation, you will also be supporting our youth heritage camp, *Masse Moro*. This book would make a perfect gift for a special Norskie you know! Cheryl has additional copies and can easily get one to you.

Enclosed on page 7 in this newsletter is an order form, should you wish to place your order independently. Thank you!



July August 2017

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