

ORD FRA PRESIDENTEN

Like many families, Vennelag Lodge has a busy summer ahead. I invite your family to partake in as many things as your schedule allows! Getting to know others helps our Lodge to grow stronger.

Our social and cultural directors, Allen and Tiffany have been busy planning many different activities that meet the desires of our membership. If you have additional ideas for fun or enlightenment, please communicate them. Tiffany: whetigger05@hotmail.com or Allen: awatrud@gmail.com

Summer is also the perfect time to get outside and move! Walk the Military Ridge trail, swim, cycle, workout at your favorite gym, run, or play a team sport. There are numerous ways to earn sports medals through the Sons of Norway. Our Lodge's Sports and Recreation Director Davi Penne can assist you further. Contact her for additional information: davinamarie2@gmail.com

In the meantime, I ask you to consider some "advice from a sunflower" printed below. Enjoy your summer that has finally arrived!

**Advice from a Sunflower**

Be Outstanding in your Field
Hold your Head High
Spread Seeds of Happiness
Feed the Birds
Think Solar
Keep on the Sunny Side
Grow Up

--from the Your True Nature Collection

Norwegian word of the month...**skiveskjære**: cut in slices

This word choice is perfect for July, as many things will be cut into slices and prepared for the annual Kaffe Stue or coffee room! It is one of our largest fundraisers of the year, and we rely on YOU to make it great!

Last year, we welcomed hundreds of people to the Mount Horeb Community Center for a tasty luncheon.

A thousand thanks are extended to all who have offered food donations. Others have chosen to volunteer for the event by assisting with the set-up at 2 PM on **July 19th** or on the day of the event **July 20th**, beginning with sandwich prep at 6 AM! Our members are the backbone of our lodge and its longevity rests on your shoulders. Holding the Kaffe Stue each summer helps our Lodge to meet, in part, one goal of the Sons of Norway. Sharing the heritage and food culture of the Norwegian people with others ensures that many of the food traditions of our ancestors are preserved well into the next generation. If you cannot assist with the Kaffe Stue, please remit a check in the amount of \$20.00 to help defray the cost of purchasing consumable supplies such as eggs, bread, and lemonade.

Please contact me with any further questions or concerns you may have.

By phone: 608-219-4464 or via e-mail: rogcher@mhtc.net.

Alt for Vennelag!

CherylType

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.

VENNELAG'S SYTTENDE MAI CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS



Karen and Jerry Lapidakis, the 2019 Stoughton Syttende Royalty, were our special guests.



Marlin Grinde was recognized as the eldest member of the lodge.

LONGEVITY AWARDS WERE PRESENTED



5 years: Cheryl Goplin
Joyce Nygard



10 years: Lisa Salava



15 years: Arthur Nes
Ann Walser



20 years: Nancy Kittleson
Cheryl Wille-Schlesser



25 years: Gyle Anderson
JoDon Anderson



Siri Martin was recognized as the 2019 Vennelag Scholarship recipient

"I think it's important to keep in mind that each person has an opportunity - every day - to influence both our own and others' sense of value and joy of life.

Because every one of us matters.

To those who think no one cares about what I do from or to, I would say: Just *your* smile can make a difference to a person you meet on the street. Just *your* kind word can create a better day for another. And just *your* thoughtfulness can trigger new positive actions."

—His Majesty King Harald's speech New Year's Eve 2018

REMINISCING ABOUT MY NORWEGIAN HERITAGE

by Arthur Ness

One spring day in 1856, at just about noon, lightning hit the Nes Hoved (Head) Church. The church can be found on the point of land about 25 miles NE of Oslo where the Vorm and Glomma rivers meet. Nes Hoved was to that area what Notre Dame is to Paris. It was a large, stone church with a spire that had been there in some form since the 11th Century. Quick work saved the polychrome 16th Century pulpit, the slightly newer altar, a carved chandelier and a large oil portrait of a former pastor, Jacob Finckenhagen. In a little over two hours, all that remained were the massive stone walls. Both my mother's and father's families have roots in this area that go back as far as the records reach, so this church had played an important part in my family, quite literally, for centuries.

A large, red brick church was soon built a short distance away and dedicated in 1860. It is still referred to as the "New Church", and incorporates the altar, pulpit, chandelier, and some other decorative elements saved from the fire. The church still uses the stone baptismal font that survived the fire and may even be older than the church that burned.

In 1910, the "New Church" celebrated 50 years and commemorative brass medals were struck from metal of the melted bell. Two of these were sent to my grandmother by her parents who were later to be buried in the New Church's graveyard. The two medals show the New Church on one side, but one medal shows the old church prior to the fire on the other side while the second medal shows the overgrown ruins of the old church on the second side.

Norway is both a very new country and a very old country. By European standards it is new, since the Constitution was written in 1814 and the current government, a constitutional monarchy, was not established until 1905. It is very old since some of Europe's oldest written history, dating as long ago as the 6th Century or earlier, documents events that took place, but with questionable accuracy. Norway has churches of stone and wooden (*stav*) as old as Nes Hoved that did not burn and serve to this day as functioning parish churches.

Well into the 20th Century, the ruins of Nes Hoved stood neglected, but as times changed, an appreciation for national history and for places like this developed. The area was cleaned up, the walls stabilized, and the overgrowth cleared away, so the roofless enclosure now serves as a dramatic venue for weddings, local festivals, and concerts. The surrounding area has been archaeologically explored and interpreted. It is now a popular point where the rivers converge and has signs and plaques that tell the history and geography of the area.

Nes Hoved is also said to be haunted. *Prost* Finckenhagen's ghost is said to appear at night. Several hazy pictures with indefinite glows can be found online. In 1999, I was in the area, with my daughter, who was 14, for a family wedding. It was an overcast day in mid-June, giving it a "gothic" feel. The lilacs outside the walls of the church were in full bloom. *Prost* Finckenhagen's cast iron grave monument stands amid the lilac bushes. I told my daughter to stand by the monument for a picture and we would see if there might be an extra "person" in it. *Prost* Finckenhagen's grandson had gone to Iowa in the mid-19th Century over what his family felt was an "unacceptable liaison" with a dairy maid (he took her with him). Their daughter married my great-grandma's brother. I knew this family well when I was growing up. I told my daughter that *just maybe* he might show up in the picture as a "shirttail relative". Not surprisingly, the picture came back showing only my daughter, the monument, the old stone walls, and some very unthreatening lilacs. Still, it captures a setting that shows how far back my history goes and is typical of how deeply many of our families are rooted in Norway.



HILDA OIMOEN IS TURNING 90 on July 5th!

Let's celebrate Hilda with a card shower.

Send birthday wishes to her at 10170 Sharp Rd.

Mount Horeb, WI 53572-2524

(Hilda's daughter is Lana Dyreson)

Velkommen to our new members



Mark Hanson joined Vennelag Lodge in January 2019. Mark is originally from Blanchardville, the son of Norwegian parents, Kenneth and Betty Hanson. He recently retired as the assessor for the City of Madison. Prior to that he was an assessment auditor for the WI Dept. of Revenue. Mark lives in Madison, and in his spare time, dabbles in real estate development. He enjoys golfing, making lefse and making new friends with the members of Vennelag Lodge.



Jason Hayes
Kjersten Hayes
Sutton Hayes



Erik Krueger

David Jelle

Kjersten and Erik are the children of Arlene Watrud-Krueger. The Hayes family lives in Waukesha. Jason works for Daymon Worldwide. Kjersten is an elementary teacher for the Waukesha School District. Sutton is 4 years old and loves to dance! Erik drives for U.W. Provisions and lives in Madison.

Here are the riders on the float from the Mt. Horeb Frolic:



Marlyn Grinde, her daughter, Lisa, grandson Bo and his dad Glenn Schult drove.

Tiffany and Lynn Schwoerer, Arlene Watrud-Krueger, Allen Watrud and family, Guy and Siri Martin, Jasmine Salava, Carolyn Johnson, David Hermanson, Ann Walser, Hilda Oimoen, Lana Dyreson, David Oimoen, and Rita Schraepfer.
Little Stella Simmons was also a guest rider.



Vennelag's "mighty" bike trail workers, Carolyn, Cheryl and Donna used their muscles to keep our portion of the bike path well groomed for all who use it.
Godt utførte damer!

UPCOMING LODGE MEETING DATES AND FOOD NEWS

| EVENT DATE | EVENT | PROVIDED BY: |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--|
| July 20 | KAFFE STUE-no lodge meeting | ALL members |
| August 29 | Lodge meeting (6:30 PM) | Lodge provides the food |
| September 26 | Lodge meeting (6:30 PM) | Board serves |
| October 24 | Lodge meeting (6:30 PM) | Marj Johnson Donna Corcoran Eddie and Cheryl Goplin Rita Schraepfer |

Pending BOARD Meetings

Wednesday, July 10, 2019 (Board responsibilities meeting, State Bank of Cross Plains)

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

OUR UPCOMING EVENTS...MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VENNELAG **FUN!**



Lodge members will be attending a Madison Mallards baseball game on Thursday night, **July 25th**. Tickets are \$25 per person and include all the ballpark fare you can eat, a Mallards baseball hat, and bottomless cups of soda. Should you wish to enjoy an alcoholic beverage with your meal, there is an additional upcharge.

We will be sitting in the Duck Blind again. We've got a good number of attendees so far, but there is plenty of remaining space. Let us know so we can include you when we buy tickets. Please make contact no later than **July 4th** to join in on the fun! Social director, Allen Watrud is handling arrangements. Please contact Allen Watrud, awatrud@gmail.com, or call him at: 608-772-1969 for further information.

The game starts at 6:35. Allen Watrud will have tickets outside the main gate. We should plan to start arriving by 5:30 so we can get a large block of seats together in the Duck Blind.

Vennelag Lodge has been invited to participate in two upcoming parades!



1) We will be returning the Viking ship to Argyle, WI on **July 28th** in celebration of the village's 175th Anniversary. Our ship originally belonged to the Norsemen Supper Club in Argyle before being adopted by Vennelag Lodge. She has sailed many miles since then, but the captain of the ship has informed us that she knows how to reach her home port! Members will need to provide their own transport to Argyle, but we can arrange carpools for those who are interested.

2) On Sunday afternoon, **August 25th**, the S. S. Vennelag will sail the waters thru downtown Middleton, WI for its Good Neighbor Festival. Set up will be at 11:30 on University Ave (near the Wolf-Kubly ACE hardware store). The parade begins at 12:30. Further information can be obtained from Vennelag Lodge President Cheryl Wille-Schlessler, 608-219-4464 or by email: rogcher@mhtc.net.

Are you up for a little wine tasting?

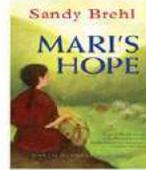
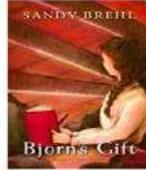
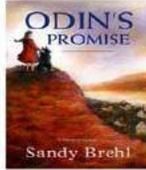
Come join us on **Aug. 17** when we go to Botham Winery. We will meet at the Mount Horeb Community Center parking lot at 1:00 pm and carpool to the Botham Winery south of Barneveld on Co. K for our tour at 2:00 pm. The tour is \$5.00. If you choose to sample 6 wines, the cost is \$5.00.

Contact Allen Watrud (awatrud@gmail.com or 608-772-1969) if you haven't signed up yet.



Sandra Brehl will speak at Vennelag Lodge on [August 29th](#). Brehl is a retired educator and is the author of numerous books, both novels and picture books for youth. She is best-known for her trilogy written for younger readers, *the Odin's Promise Series*. Although this series is written with upper elementary and middle school youth in mind, they are an enjoyable and quick read for adults, too! The books center on the main character, Mari, who learns to cope with the Nazi Occupation of Norway during WWII.

If you are working to earn your cultural pin in literature, these novels would qualify as choice books. Better yet, find a young one in your family and read the books together! Invite a child to join you at the August meeting. Spark the lifelong love of reading in someone you know.



There will be a brief side meeting for those reading for their Literature medal. This will be a good time for any questions you have and it will prepare us for our September meeting. Book lists are available from Karen Eberhart at eber01dj@gmail.com. The South-Central Library System has books by: Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, Ole E. Rolvaag, Laurie Snelling, Gunnar Staalesen, Karen Fossum, and Orm Øverland.

Get Ready! October is our Sons of Norway Foundation Month! To recognize Foundation month, we will again be holding a Silent Auction during our October membership meeting to raise funds for scholarships, community need grants, camperships and promoting our heritage and culture of Norway long into the future. Start planning now for your theme idea for a basket to auction off! More information about the auction will be forthcoming in our next newsletter.

Harley



Further out...

We will be having a members-only baking workshop on Sunday [October 20th, 2019](#). The afternoon will focus on two recipes that use the Norwegian ingredient **hartshorn**. If you are interested, sign up by calling Tiffany at 527- 2821. This day will be geared toward getting additional recipes for a food medal or new family favorites.

Join the members of Vennelag Lodge for their annual Norwegian Baking Workshop at the Mt. Horeb Community Center on [Saturday, November 2](#), 2019, beginning at 8:30 AM. The day will open with warm heart waffles and beverages being served. The class has an enrollment cap, so I would encourage anyone who is interested in attending to register early. Further questions may be directed to one of our food chairwomen: Ann Walser or Mary Gullickson-Krantz: anncwalsen@gmail.com or laffalot@mhtc.net

Do you have a change of address?

Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email. You may make a request to discontinue the printed copy to receive an email copy notification when the newsletter is posted on www.sonsofnorway5.com.

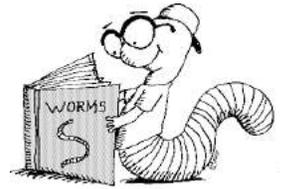
Duane Kittleson
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Madison, WI. 53705
Phone: 608-229-6738

TUBFRIM

Save used stamps and expired or used phone cards for Tubfrim to help disabled children and youth in Norway. Cut leaving about ¼ inch around each stamp on all sides. Bring them to a lodge meeting and put in the TUBFRIM container.

Welcome to the Vennelag Book Club

New Revised Literature Culture Pin Requirements



Unit 1 - Read only 3 books by Norwegian authors. Books can be found in South Central Library system

- One book Review (only one from the three books that you read!)
- One Elective
- Unit 1 Evaluation

Fill out Pin paperwork at the September 26 Lodge meeting (6:30 pm)

Bring this information of the 3 books you have read:

- Name of book
- Norwegian Author name (might be translated into English)
- Type/genre of book
- Check below for the questions you will need to answer about one of the books that you are reporting on for this part.
- Book 1
- Book 2
- Book 3
-

At the September meeting, we will be setting up groups of 5/6 to exchange books for Unit 2 - Fiction or Unit 3 Non-fiction

Bring your books to share with your name inside the book so others can sign them out during the exchange.

For 1 book (fiction) answer questions:

- Briefly tell about the main character or characters in this book. What is he/she like? Did he/she change over the course of the story and if so, how?
- Describe the major conflicts or key events in the story.
- Describe what you learned about Norwegian character or culture from this text.
- Did you like this book? Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?
- Is there anything else you would like to add about this book or play?

For 1 book (non-fiction) answer questions:

- Briefly summarize the subject of the book.
- How familiar were you with the subject before reading this book? Or was the topic completely new to you?
- Describe what you have learned about Norwegian character and culture from this text.
- What did you learn from reading this book? Did it change or affect your views on the subject in some way?
- Overall, did you like this book? Would you recommend it to others? Why, or why not?

For Poetry- Read at least 3 poems and answer questions for this type of work.

Friendly 5th Fisheree - June 9th at the Wille Farm, Indianford

By John and Karen Eberhardt

For those of you who missed it, this was a great time and a great day to be outdoors. Yes, I get it, our schedules get really busy this time of year. I had other places I could have been that day too, but I had an opportunity to bond with stepchildren and step grandchildren and teach them to do something fun and outdoors that didn't involve screens. My stepson had fished a few times as a child, but his children had virtually never fished before.

The facilities were very nice. Cheryl and her brothers and sister-in-law did a super job of preparation for the event. The dining area was a very nice and clean shop, well appointed with a large grill and tables and countertop and refrigerators. All the conveniences of home. Having lunch first is always a great way to start a party and who wants to eat after getting all fishy?

After spending the first hour eating lunch and socializing, it was time to head to the lovely little lake and try our luck fishing. I personally had spent much of the preceding week finding, cleaning, and sorting out my fishing equipment that had been ignored for much too long. I had to prepare equipment for 2 grandkids as well as their parents and myself and Karen. The lake is deep enough and big enough to have a variety in and size of fish. After displacing the resident Canada Geese, we set up for some fishing fun. The area had been mowed and there was a porta potty available. After setting the grandkids and their father Jon up, I had all I could do to wet a line as the grandkids began pulling in big Bluegills almost immediately. Cheryl's brother Russ and Sister-in-Law were fishing too and soon there were fish being landed so fast that Russ and I had all we could do to keep up taking fish off lines and baiting hooks. When I had a chance to start fishing, I began donating lures to the lake as it had been quite a while since I had cast. I got caught in trees and brush (all my fault) and finally set up a hook and bobber and began trying to catch Bluegills and Pumpkin Seeds like everyone else. Grandson Ashton caught a nice Largemouth bass that freaked him out. It was 14 or 15 inches long and he simply didn't know how to react after that. Eventually everyone who wanted to have a pole in hand was having fun. The Bluegills and Pumpkin Seeds were averaging $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound to a pound. It has been a while since I have seen these kinds of fish consistently in that size range. A couple of ladies came down to the fishing area and set up a Kubb pitch. They had fun practicing their skills.

After fishing for a couple of hours, we concluded that we had more than enough fish for a couple of dinners. We caught 7 or 8 Largemouth Bass among all of us but put them all back to grow some more. Ashton caught the biggest fish of the day and his sister Maddie caught the most fish, so they were awarded their own fishing poles by Cheryl from the contest prizes. Everyone who wanted to fish caught fish which makes any fishing trip a success. The weather was great, the lunch hit the spot, and the fishing was fast and furious at times for sure. All in all, it was a very nice day. A big thank you to Cheryl and her family for their hospitality and effort.





Vennelag News

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