

The Ager Newsletter

January February March 2026

ACTIVITIES

Board Meetings at 7 p.m.
Third Monday of the month.

Open House--Tours

February 14 10 - 2
February 28 10 - 2
March 14 10 - 2
March 28 10 - 2
April 4 10 - 2
April 11 Private Event at the Ager
April 25 10 - 2

CultureFest at Davies Center

Sunday, March 29, from noon to 4
University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire



The Waldemar Ager
Association
514 W. Madison Street
P.O. Box 1742
Eau Claire, Wisconsin
54702-1742
715.598.1776
www.agerhouse.org

Coming Soon

Tuesday, February 10, at 6:00 p.m.

Jerry Poling discusses his new book,
The American Birkebeiner.

At the Chippewa Valley Museum.

This event is free.

Co-sponsors with CVM are the Chippewa
Valley Writers' Guild and the Waldemar
Ager Association.

Tuesday, February 24, at 10 a.m.

Bill Ager will give a presentation on "Waldemar Ager:
A Norwegian-American Story." The Norwegian
Genealogical Library is hosting the webinar. Ager
members may access the program. Members of
the Ager Association may email

agerassociation@agerhouse.org for an exclusive link to
join the webinar.

Wednesday, February 25

Book Discussion

Fredrik Backman's new book, *My Friends*.

At 6:30.

5462 Woodcrest Highlands Rd, Eau Claire.

Wednesday, March 11

Tulla Froyen discusses her book *Across Minnesota in All
Directions*.

At 6:30 p.m. in the Riverview Room, L.E. Phillips
Memorial Public Library. This event is free.

Donations 2025

Tracking finances this year has been a challenge for treasurer Bob Gough. He had a couple of visits to the hospital and some periods of rehab. Mobility issues made it difficult to make the usual trips to our PO Box for incoming mail. Some donors worried that their checks weren't getting deposited. We think we are back on top of this process now and thank you for your patience.

Below is a listing of donors who supported the Association this year. If your donation is not recognized here, please write Bob (RobertGough10@gmail.com) or Editor Doug (pearsoda@uwec.edu).

• General Donations

- Peter and Carol Anderson
- Borgny Ager, estate of
- Tryg Ager and Judith Nyquist
- Avery, Susan
- Bruckner, Tom
- Campden, Jim
- Etnier, Jan
- Fossum, Ella
- Fossum, Robert and Robin
- Gough, Robert
- Hansen, Miriam and Jan
- Hoffman, Ronald
- Johnson and Sorenson
- Kaldjian, Paul
- Kuhlman, Ann
- Lunde, Ivar and Nanette
- Nelson, Suzanne and Bob
- Sue and Doug Pearson
- Rizzi, Bob
- Salander, Leon
- Streckert, Tom
- Tompkins, Tommy
- Worth, Roderic
- Wurtzel, Helen and Norbert

• In Memory Of

- Susan Ager Avery IMO Roger and Wally Waldemar Ager
- Kathryn Larson IMO Brad Larson
- Meg Nord and Paul Kaldjian IMO Øyvind Tveitereid Gulliksen
- Roderic Waldemar Worth IMO Ccamila Marie Ager

• In Honor Of

- Kathryn Larson IHO Gordy Thorpe
- Jane Pederson IHO Gordy Thorpe

• Building Fund

- Susan Decker
- Frank Derge
- Mary and Ed Elworthy
- Erik Halverson

THANK YOU ALL

Your donations make this newsletter possible. Your support also assures that the house is cared for and that we carry out the educational mission of the Association. Every membership and donation is a pledge for the future of the organization. You have a share in the work and the success of the Ager Association.

President's Update – Jan 2026

Association Members and Friends,

Happy New Year or *Godt nytt år!* On behalf of our Association officers and board, I hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. Reflecting upon last year's events and accomplishments, we have much to be thankful for. We are excited about new opportunities in 2026. We sincerely appreciate the involvement and contributions of our many volunteers and members.

As shared in my last update, we seek to build upon past progress, but we need help to fill roles within the organization. We still have two vacancies on the Board of Directors, and we need a Secretary on the Executive Committee. Also, we need volunteers for our programs, facility, and library committees. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested, please let us know.

January is also the start of our annual membership cycle, and we ask that you please renew your membership. Your renewal ensures that our member roster is accurate and current, and it also assures that you will continue to receive the newsletter and program announcements. Additionally, membership dues remain a vital part of our organization's financial stability. Your dues support and provide access to our events and programs. As you know, the Ager Association (and museum) operate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our activities depend on volunteers. To realize our mission, we depend on your funding and your participation.

As always, we value your input and feedback, so please contact us if you have questions, recommendations, or would like to volunteer. Please visit our website (agerhouse.org) or Facebook for the latest information updates. We are looking forward to seeing you in the months ahead!

Warm Regards,

Chris Engen



Volunteer

Inside the House

March 21, from 10 to noon

House cleaning

Clean windows, shades, curtains.

Inventory kitchen.

Inventory books.

Rearrange storage. Deep clean both bathrooms.

Etc.

Outside the House

April 18 and May 23

From 10 - noon

Yard work: Rake and bag leaves. Renew perimeter landscaping.

Renew grass on north and west lawn.

Contact Doug Peason

(pearsoda@uwec.edu)

If you can help with these jobs.

November 15

Bakers and assistants assembled baking equipment and demonstrated the art of making lefse and krumkake. The event, held at the Altoona Public Library for the third time, attracted 40 interested (and hungry) guests.



November 30

The annual Advent at the Ager offered an array of Scandinavian foods—from meatballs to pickled herring, Swedish rye bread, Danish kringle, krumkake and rosettes. A cello recital and caroling offered joyful music. And, as guests departed late in the afternoon, the candle lights in the windows echoed the holiday spirit of the lights on the Norwegian-flag-decorated Christmas tree.



November 29

Mary Elworthy, Deb Jarvar, Sue Pearson, Barbara and Andy Shafer presented an art sale that included prints, photos, watercolor paintings, work in oil, greeting cards, and books by the artists.

The weather at the end of the day turned grim—snow and cold. The artists decided not to pack up their unsold work until Monday. Then they rearranged the basement displays and moved Elworthy's works to the basement. This turned out well because guests who came to the Advent at the Ager event the next day (Nov 30) were able to view and buy the art. The sale had an unexpected second day.



Move the Stabbur

Here's the stabbur being delivered to the Ager parking lot. It cost \$350 to move the stabbur to Eau Claire. It will cost a lot more than \$350 to settle the stabbur on the west side of the museum. Please help fund the move. Send donations to the Ager Association.

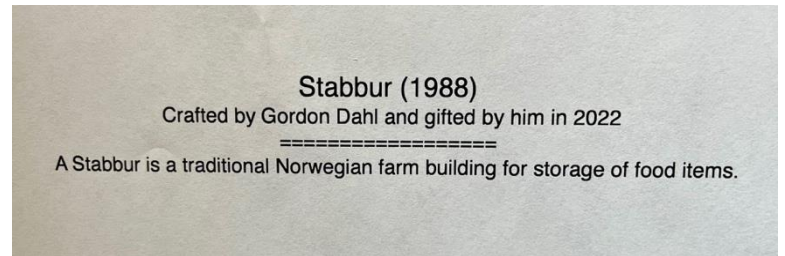
Note: If you want to help fund the move, please note stabbur on your check. Or donate online at agerhouse.org.

Little Free Library

The Ager Museum now has a functional Little Free Library. Readers are encouraged to take a book and leave a book. It appears that we have several people reading Ager's novels. They have been coming and going since October.



Ager and Rølvaag



Waldemar Ager and Ole Rølvaag

By Bill Ager

Waldemar Ager and Ole Edvart Rølvaag had a long and enduring friendship and mutual respect in their dedication to preserving Norwegian-American identity through literature, education, and cultural work. Though Ager was a newspaper editor and activist in Wisconsin and Rølvaag a novelist and professor of Norwegian language and literature at St. Olaf College in Minnesota, both were deeply concerned with the immigrant experience, the tension between assimilation and heritage, and the cultural responsibilities of the Norwegian-American community.

Ager admired Rølvaag's literary achievements, especially *Giants in the Earth*, and promoted his work, while Rølvaag respected Ager's tireless advocacy for temperance, language preservation, and cultural pride. In their personal time, Ager and Rølvaag exchanged letters and shared thoughtful conversations about literature and faith. And the two liked to fish together.



Membership

The Ager Association operates a museum and a library. The mission is to celebrate the legacy of Waldemar Ager and provide opportunities to study and discuss Nordic languages, history, literature, culture and genealogy.

Recently, the Ager Board changed membership levels. Single/household \$40. Life memberships remain at \$1,000. Memberships are for the calendar year—January 1 to December 31.

The Board hopes that members will renew now (envelopes included with this mailing) and that members will also donate to various Ager initiatives such as the building fund, the move-the-stabbur fund, the general fund, the memorial funds (designated by donors as in memory of or in honor of).

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

* * * *

☐ Single/Household \$40

☐ Life \$1,000

Additional Contribution(s):

General Needs \$ _____

Move the Stabbur \$ _____

Build the Building \$ _____

In Memory of (name) _____ \$ _____

In Honor of (name) _____ \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____

Total Donation \$ _____

Email Address: _____

Memberships can be sent in the envelope included in this newsletter. Or you may donate online at “Become a Member” at agerhouse.org.

Tentative Schedule of Events in 2026

February 10 6 – 7 p.m.	Birkebeiner—Jerry Poling’s history of the Birkebeiner. A co-production with CVM and CV Writers’ Guild	CV Museum
March 11 6:30 – 7:30	Ager, Lobeck—6:30 Temperance, Speaker Tulla Froyen	Riverview Room, LEPMPL
March 29 Noon to 4	Culture Fest UWEC	Davies Center
*May 17	Syttende Mai	Holiday Inn South
June 22 6:30 – 7:30 7:30 – 8:30	Summer Solstice 6:30 - Trygve Ager: Journalist, Translator and More—Speaker Ella Fossum	Public library, followed by reception at Ager Museum
*July 18 8:30 a.m.	Tusenbeiner 4	Mayo and Museum
Late July	Art Fair???	Empty lots
*Mid-August	Multicultural Fest	Farmers Market
October 26, 27, 28, 29???	Annual Meeting: business and social. Program: A Day in the Life of Waldemar Ager. Presenter: Jodi Kiffmeyer	Public Library
*Mid-November	4 th Annual Scandinavian Food/Baking Demo	Altoona Public Library
*Nov 29	Advent at the Ager: need to announce key elements of the program.	Ager Museum

February 10 | Jerry Poling, former journalist and publicist, has published books about UW-Stout, Hank Aaron, and the Green Bay Packers. His new book, *The American Birkebeiner*, reveals the history of the event through pictures, interviews, document research, and his personal experience of participating in 25 Birkies.

March 11 | Tulla Froyen’s grandfather was E.E.Lobeck, a friend and associate of Ager. Both were very active in the temperance movement. Lobeck served in 1906 on the Board that named Ager as manager, editor and owner of Fremad Publishing. For her book *Across Minnesota in All Directions*, Froyen spent hours at the Ager Museum and library with the research assistance of Ager member/librarian Miriam Hansen.

The Waldemar Ager Museum
Center for Nordic Culture
P.O. Box 1742
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1742

Physical Address
514 W. Madison Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Building Fund



Waldemar Ager was born in 1869. Those numbers suggest a donation theme. Consider giving a donation to the building fund, phase two. It is hoped that the next newsletter will be full of information about the building plan.

Please **donate your support for the building project to the Ager Association**. Note Phase Two on your check.

Consider these possibilities:

\$18.69
\$186.90
\$1,869.00
\$18,690.00
\$186,900.00

Send donations to
Treasurer
Waldemar Ager Association
PO Box 1742
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1742