

# AGER NEWS

Special Edition

## Meetings

The Board meets at the Ager Museum monthly on the third Monday evening at 7 p.m.

## Museum Tours

Monthly

10 - 2

2nd and 4th Saturdays

June 27

July 11

July 25

August 8

August 22

September 12

September 26

## SanktHans Midsommar

On Monday, June 22, at 6:30 p.m., Ella Fossum and her brother Tryg Ager will offer a talk about their father, Waldemar's son Trygve.

They will discuss WWII history and Trygve's work as a translator. Photos accompany the story.



## ON THE move again . . .

In May 2024, Gordy Dahl's stabbur arrived in the alley on the east side of the Ager Museum. Dahl had built the structure in the 1980s and now offered it to the Ager Association. The Board accepted this gift. The driver of the truck unloaded the stabbur and dragged it to the north end of the Ager parking area. There it has sat ever since.

Dahl has wondered when the building will be permanently situated. Now, it appears, we have a potential contractor to prepare the site and another to move the structure to the west side of the Ager Museum.

Some members and friends have already created a fund to pay for the costs of moving the stabbur and for sprucing it up. The wood needs a coat of paint, and there are sections that need modest repair. If you wish to add to the fund, please send a check to Ager Association, PO Box 1742, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1742. Memo: Stabbur.





The Tusenbeiners | 2025

The Ager Association invites you to **The Tusenbeiner Four**. Join other runners and walkers on Saturday, July 18, starting at 8:30 a.m. in the Mayo Parking Lot, across the street and a little bit west of the Ager Museum.

**Register** by July 13 at [agerhouse.org](http://agerhouse.org) to assure that you get a T-shirt. You may also register in person at the Ager Museum on Friday, July 17, between 5 and 7. Or on the 18th at the starting line. Shirt not guaranteed. Ager Association members with current (2026) membership receive a \$5 discount.

### **Volunteer, Please!**

For The Tusenbeiner, we need 8 volunteers on the course. We need 3 in the kitchen to manage the food prep and presentation—and clean up.

For other activities (house cleaning, yard care, tours) we need helpers. Please let Doug Pearson ([pearsoda@uwec.edu](mailto:pearsoda@uwec.edu)) know what you can do to help.

### **Make Something Beautiful**

The Association is offering four workshops starting on July 25, 2026, and ending on January 16, 2027: **rosemaling, knitting, fiber art, and Swedish poetry**. Details available soon—online at [agerhouse.org](http://agerhouse.org). All are FREE to 2026 Ager members.

## **Happy Syttende Mai 2026**

by William Ager

*Held at the Holiday INN South Eau Claire, this year's Syttende Mai celebration featured good food, good company, a silent auction, and a beautiful performance of the American and Norwegian national anthems by Mary Elworthy on recorder.*

*The featured speaker was Professor Emeritus Paul Kaldjian of UW-Eau Claire, who took us on an entertaining journey into a question many people have wondered about: Why do Nordic countries keep showing up at the top of the world's happiness rankings?*

*Dr. Kaldjian—who reminded us several times (with a smile) that he is Finnish, not Norwegian, explored the famous World Happiness Report and what it actually measures. Along the way, he shared stories, maps, research, and a healthy dose of Nordic humor. He noted that while Finns may not be the world's biggest smilers, they consistently report high levels of life satisfaction.*

*His conclusion? Happiness is not just about wealth, success, or even donuts (though he admitted donuts certainly help). Instead, it grows from strong relationships, trust in neighbors and institutions, personal responsibility, community support, and a sense of security about the future.*

*Dr. Kaldjian highlighted several traits often found in Nordic societies: trust, cooperation, fairness, transparency, and care for both the young and the elderly. He suggested that happiness is less about chasing big moments and more about building a life filled with many small acts of kindness, purpose, and connection.*

*Perhaps the most memorable moment came at the end of the evening when attendees completed their own informal happiness survey. The result? The crowd scored an impressive 7.8 out of 10 on the happiness scale—slightly higher than Finland itself!*

*Whether or not we can claim to be happier than the Finns (or the Norwegians living in Norway), the evening left everyone with something to think about: happiness may not be a destination, but rather the result of caring for one another and working together to build strong communities. We're all in this together!*