

# The Ager Newsletter

The Waldemar Ager Association

March-May 2016



## *Coming Events*

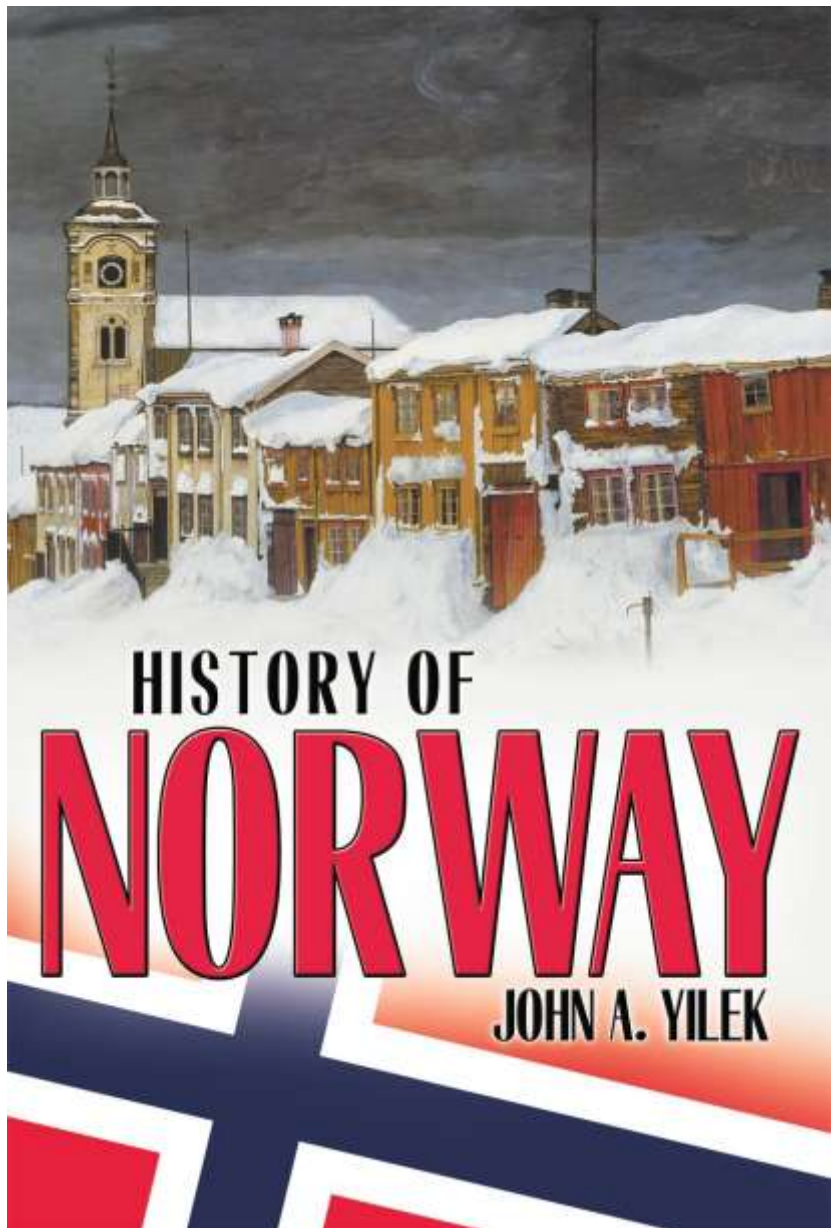
Spring Program, April 4, 7pm,  
L.E. Phillips Library (see right)

Ager House Board Meetings,  
Mondays: March 21, April 18  
and May 16, 9:30 am.

Syttende Mai Banquet:  
Wednesday, May 17, Best  
Western Trail Lodge Hotel

Watch for:  
Midsommar Event  
Kids' Kubb Clinic  
U.S. Nat. Kubb Championship

The Waldemar Ager Assn.  
514 W. Madison Street  
P.O. Box 1742  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
54702-1742  
715.834.3985  
[www.agerhouse.org](http://www.agerhouse.org)



Waldemar Ager Association Spring Program  
Featuring John Yilek, author and historian  
Monday April 4, 7 p.m.

Eau Claire Room—L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library  
Eau Claire

Business meeting at 6:30. Public is welcome!

## News from Doug Pearson, President of the Ager Association

First of all, our treasurer reports that many of you have confirmed your support of the Ager Association with memorial gifts and your contributions for annual renewals. Thank you for keeping this organization alive and thriving.

Second, it is a great pleasure to welcome and thank Oscar Brandser and Bob Gough as new members of the Board of Directors. Oscar is employed at Xcel Energy, and Bob is a recent retiree from UW-Eau Claire (history). Bob also serves on the Landmarks Commission. Each of these new members brings new energy (Oscar quite literally) and perspectives to the activity of the Board.

I am also happy to report that we continue to have public interest in the house and organization. In January and February we had several visitors on our open Saturdays. Some Norwegian ski jumpers and their coaches, here for the FIS ski jumping meet, came to visit the house on Thursday, February 10, before going back to Silvermine hill for some chilly, windy runs on the big slide. We expect visits in late March from about 30 folks in Learning in Retirement programs. And, as usual, we have regular artist and Hardanger groups using the house on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This past year we have had several book groups reading Ager books and coming to the house for their book discussion. Consider putting a group together yourself.

Open House—Tours  
available  
Through House and Library  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, 10 to 2  
and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays,  
4-6 pm.  
Public welcome!

We are learning, however, that a museum must always be developing. Once seen, the house may cease to encourage return visits. To sustain interest, the Board has been looking at a variety of ways to develop public attention. We formed two subcommittees to investigate some of

the possibilities. One group arranged a meeting with a representative of the Mayo Clinic Health System, the Economic Development officer of the City of Eau Claire, and the director of Parks and Recreation. Our first meeting reestablished some important connections for the Ager Association. The subcommittee will meet again this spring to talk more about the future for west side impact.

The second subcommittee was a gathering of representatives from the Ager Association, Norden Folk, and Sons of Norway. The main theme of the meeting was to explore opportunities for collaboration—in programming but also in community development. But the conversation became primarily focused on the preparations for Syttende Mai.

And this is a good opportunity to close this letter by informing you that this year's event will take place at the Best Western Plus Trail Lodge Hotel & Suites on Tuesday, May 17. Be ready for dinner served at your table, a fine program, and celebratory fellowship.

P.S. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will notice our tentative regular programming for 2016-17 and a notice of a couple of other opportunities as well. It always helps if members pitch in to make these events a success. So let us know if you will be able to assist with one or more of our planned activities (pearsoda@uwec.edu, 715 834 5204).

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About the *History of Norway*: John Yilek, Norwegian history instructor and author, will outline major episodes in Norway's history, including stories about the first Viking attack, a famous legend of the Sami, how a reindeer discovered the largest lode of copper in Europe, Ole Bull's failed Norwegian-American settlement at Oleana, and the heavy water sabotage in World War II. After the presentation, he will sign copies of his new book called *History of Norway*, an account of Norway's history from the Stone Age to the present day.

## Ski Jumpers Visit the Ager House

Nothing defines Norwegians like skiing. Whether it's alpine, cross-country, or jumping, Norwegians excel at every level. In a two-week span, Wisconsin has hosted an FIS Cup ski jumping meet (in Eau Claire on February 11 and 12) and the annual American Birkebeiner cross-country race. Area, national, and international skiers have been featured at both events.

Some of the Norwegians and their coaches came to visit Waldemar Ager's house on February 10 just before going off for practice runs in below zero weather and somewhat severe winds. They were surprised to learn that Roald Amundson had visited Eau Claire were pleased to find information on Marcus Trane along with works by Ibsen and Bjornson.



Norb Wurtzel got some of them to pose briefly during a tour in the warmer climes of Ager House.

### 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scandinavian Retreat

On February 19-21, Norden Folk sponsored the 43rd annual retreat program for university students and faculty. Unusually warm weather curtailed most of the outdoor recreational activities, but indoors the programming went on as scheduled. On Saturday and Sunday there were seven hour-long presentations and discussions. Students from half a dozen colleges and universities learned about such things as Ossmol, a language barely surviving in a small area in Sweden, and the eSaga Project that is bringing Medieval texts to life with interactive digital translations.

I was unable to stay for the whole sequence of events, but this annual program is a good reminder of the significant resources and initiatives there are for studies of Nordic culture, history, literature, and society. Our library is one of those resources, but so are our membership and the possible collaborations with our sister Nordic organizations. – Doug



## Keeping Up With Kubb for Kids—Summer 2016



Four Nordic Camp for Kids (2015) are ready with their batons on the front lawn of the Ager Museum.

**See Nordic Camp announcement on page 6.**

Ager Board member Eric Anderson has announced two great opportunities for kids to learn and play the game of Kubb. In June, on the peninsula west of the Ager Museum, Eric and others will put on a **Kubb Clinic for Kids**. If you know the game and can help, come along. If you don't know it, come out and find out how it works. We could use a few dozen cookies to offer as treats to the participants. If you will make cookies, let Eric or me know ([pearsoda@uwec.edu](mailto:pearsoda@uwec.edu)) ([eem\\_anderson@yahoo.com](mailto:eem_anderson@yahoo.com)). Further details will be announced soon.

Also, **on July 8, the US National Kubb Championships take place in Eau Claire**. The Ager Association will have a table at the Kid Kubb event. We need some people to scoop frozen custard for 70 – 80 kids. Again, let Eric or me know if you can help that day. *Doug Pearson*



### **John Peterson 1940-2015**

For ten years John Peterson served on the board of directors for the Ager Association in Eau Claire. In that role he served as corresponding secretary and the chief translator of the old style Norwegian language used in printing of the *Reform*. He was fond of uncovering and translating funny anecdotes and mysteries from early Eau Claire life. These we regularly published in our newsletter. Ager members will miss John's gentle spirit, his intelligence and the wonderful baking he brought to Ager house activities. We offer John and Arturo's families our sincere sympathy.

## **Ager House Library News—March-May, 2016—By Miriam Hansen**

The library has received a copy of **The Troll with No Heart in His Body** from Graeme and Clare Pearson, both of whom attended the Ager House's Summer Camp in August when the musical version of the story was performed.

These troll stories are retold by storyteller Lise Lunge-Larsen, and are accompanied by Betsy Bowen's unique and beautiful woodcuts. In addition to the tales, most of which are originally from Asbjørnsen and Moe, the author has included information about the nature of trolls and how they have played an important part in Norwegian culture. The author's preface points out the value of folktales for today's children: "Folktales explore the issues as complex as the nature of good and evil, and the triumph of kindness and patience over bullying and anger. Folktales reveal universal truths."

Thank you, Clare and Graeme, for this wonderful book!

We've added several other books to the children's collection at the Ager House Library, thanks to our trip to thrift stores in Norway this past September. They include:

1. **Tre Trudelutter** by Jo Tenfjord
2. **De Tre Trærne: En Legend** by Elena Pasquali
3. **Mit Aller Første Atlas** by Björk Bjarkdadotter
4. **Lilletrollet** by Tor Åge Bringsværd
5. **Rottefangeren fra Hameln** by Helge Andersen

Reading children's books in another language is fun, and also acquaints children with a foreign language.

Want to check your Norwegian language ability? Find the titles translated on page 6.

Other recent contributions to the Ager Library include:

**The Last Letter Home**, a novel by Vilhelm Moberg. (Translated from Swedish)

**Per: Immigrant and Pioneer** by E. Palmer Rocksvold

**Vøre Hjem og Vøre Børn** by O. Klykken

**The Swedes in America** by Percie V. Hillbrand

Though our shelves are getting quite crowded (we hope to add more shelving!), the following are suggestions for gifts to the Ager Library collection. If you would like to help with these additions, please contact Norb Wurtzel or me.

Lovoll, Odd S. **Across the Deep Blue Sea: The Saga of Early Norwegian Immigrants.**

Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2015. \$16.57 (Available from Amazon or Minn. Historical Society)

Norwegian American Genealogical Center. **A Research Guide for Norwegian Genealogy**, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. \$20.00. (Available from the NA Genealogical Center, Madison)

Østgård, Bjorn Gunnar. **America-America Letters: A Norwegian Family Correspondence.**

Translated by Donald L. Berg. The Norwegian-American Historical Association, 2001. \$24.95 (Available from NAHA, Northfield, MN)

Asbjørnsen and Moe. **Askelad and Seven Silver Ducks.**  
 (Childrens) A traditional Norwegian folk tale set to music. In this musical telling of *Askelad and the Seven Silver Ducks*, Moe's original has been modified so that two performers can step in and out of the characters they portray, alternating between narrating the tale and acting out. Paperback, 32pp. 2012. Includes accompanying CD. \$14.99 (Available at Ingebretsen's in Mpls.)

Translation of titles on page 5:

1. **Three Merry Tunes**
2. **The Three Trees: A Legend**
3. **My Very First Atlas**
4. **The Little Troll**
5. **Pied Piper of Hamlin**

Final note: Jan and Miriam Hansen are planning a tour of Norway September 2-14, 2017—**Norway: Occupation, Peace and Prosperity.**

(See right) Contact Jan Hansen: <mailto:hansenjm@uwec.edu> if you are interested.

*A tour focusing on the German occupation of Norway during World War II and the peaceful prosperity that followed.*



**PRELIMINARY TOUR PROPOSAL**

**ITINERARY INCLUDES:**

- Estimated roundtrip airfare from Mpls / St. Paul, including taxes, fees and fuel surcharge
- Domestic flight from Ålesund to Bergen, including taxes, fees and fuel surcharge
- 11 nights hotel accommodations, 1st class/ superior tourist class, double occupancy
- Daily breakfasts [B], 1 lunch [L] & 7 dinners [D]
- 1st-class touring coach
- City sightseeing in Oslo, Ålesund, Trondheim and Bergen
- Visits to Oscarsborg Festningsmuseum including ferry for passengers, Norges Hjemmefront Museum (Resistance Museum), Forsvarsmuseet, Viking Ship Museum, Gudbrandsdal Krigsminnesamling, Hegra Festning, Ergan Kystfort, Theta Museum and Nidaros Cathedral
- Tour commentaries and short lectures presented by Dr. Jan Hansen
- Ferries and entrance fees to all sites & museums outlined in itinerary
- Luggage handling at hotels for 1 suitcase
- Tour Director, Days 2-13
- Tour information kit

**PRICING:**

Estimated Price with air/taxes/fuel from .....\$5100  
 Price based on minimum of 20 participants. Price includes airfare from Mpls/St. Paul (Phoenix supplement from \$300) plus taxes/fees and fuel surcharge.

Single Room Supplement.....\$625

For more information, contact:

**Brekke Tours & Travel**

**1-800-437-5302**

**Tours@BrekkeTours.com**



Norway



Sweden



Denmark



Iceland



Finland

## Second Annual Nordic Summer Camp

Sponsored by the Waldemar Ager Association and Museum

514 W. Madison Street, Eau Claire, WI 54703

**Language, Geography, Art, Music, Games**

M, T, W August 1, 2, 3, 2016  
 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each day

**For Children Ages 7 - 12**

Camper Fee: \$25  
 Limited to 20 Campers

Registration form available at [agerhouse.org](http://agerhouse.org) or by mail (Ager Museum, PO Box 1742, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1742) by June 15, 2016.

**Payment must accompany registration.**



Greenland



Faroe Islands



Samiland

**The Ager Association  
2016 Board of Directors**

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Robert Fossum, Recording Secretary  
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**Items for next newsletter must  
be received by May 18, 2016.**

**New Members—**

Mark and Karla Hillestad  
Patricia Vork, Chetek, WI  
Janice Bogstad/Philip Kaveny  
Oscar and Beth Branser

**Contributions—**

Norb and Helen Wurtzel—In memory of James Homme  
John Peterson—In memory of James Homme, Doug Jarvar,  
Gloria Thorp and in  
honor of Norb Wurtzel  
Lauren Ager—In memory of Roger W. Ager  
Ev Krigsvold—End of the Year Gift  
Karen Homme—In memory of James Homme and John  
Peterson  
Tryg Ager  
Meg Nord—In memory of Øyvind Gullicksen  
Roger and Joan Albertson—In memory of Ted and  
Margaret Litsheim  
Jan Etnier—In Memory of John Peterson  
Borgny Ager—In memory of Lauren Ager  
Janice Bogstad and Philip Kaveny—In memory of Joseph  
Ole Bogstad (1916-2010)  
Hildur Gleason—In memory of Roger W. Ager and Lauren  
Ager  
Sherene and Rick Nicolai—In memory of Hildur Ager  
Nicolai  
Waldemar T. Ager—In memory or Roger W. Ager  
Susan Ager Avery—In memory of Roger W. Ager  
Pete and Carol Anderson—In memory of Lorraine  
Fleming and Lauren Ager  
Frederik Ager—In memory of Lauren Ager  
Oscar and Beth Branser—Ager House Endowment  
Linda Curtis—In memory of John Peterson  
Pat and Tom Tomkins—In memory of Lorraine Fleming  
Elaine Berg—In memory of Lorraine Fleming  
Love Circle-Spirit Lutheran Church—In memory of  
Lorraine Fleming

**Wi-Fi support—**

Sherene and Rick Nicolai  
Carol and Pete Anderson

**Transitions—Members and Friends—2015**

**John Peterson**

**Lauren Ager**

**Lorraine Fleming, mother of Pat Tompkins**

**Elise Midelfort, sister of member Signe Dysken**

The Ager House  
514 W. Madison St.  
P.O. Box 1742  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1742

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Please help us meet our operational needs for 2016.

The Ager Association Membership/Renewal Application  
2016

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE AGER ASSOCIATION.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_Telephone\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: The Ager Association, P.O. Box 1742, Eau Claire, WI 54702

Annual Membership Levels: New\_\_\_\_\_ or Renewal\_\_\_\_\_ (Please check one.)

Life Membership: \$1,000\_\_\_\_\_ Supporting Membership: \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining Membership: \$50\_\_\_\_\_ General Membership: \$25\_\_\_\_\_

Additional gifts in Memory or in Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Other gifts may be designated for the Endowment Fund or the General Fund.



**Advent at the Ager Dec. 13. 2015:** This year the Santa Lucia celebration reached all three floors of the house. Here the members of the procession are pictured singing in the library.



Eric and Erin Anderson supervised the singers. Robin Fossum (pictured right) and Mary Elworthy provided violin and organ music. Our guests provided a wonderful array of Christmas delicacies, which were organized and presented by Carol Anderson and Ingrid Coobs. Robert Fossum was master of ceremonies. Our hostesses were Ev Krigsvold and Joyce Faaren. The Hillstads provided coffee. Thanks to all.

