

# The Ager Newsletter

Waldemar Ager Museum Dec. 2017-Feb. 2018



## **Coming Museum Events**

**Advent at the Ager—Dec. 10, 2017, 1-4 p.m.**

**Ta Fem (Take Five)**  
Mondays Jan 8, 15, 22, 29  
and February 5 from 11:30-  
12:30. Museum

**Game Day, Ager Museum**  
Saturday, January 6, 1-3  
Saturday, February 3, 1-3

**Board meeting: Jan. 16, Feb. 20, 9:30 a.m. Museum (No December Board Meeting)**

**The Waldemar Ager  
Association  
514 W. Madison Street  
P.O. Box 1742  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
54702-1742  
715.834.3985  
www.agerhouse.org**

## **Advent at the Ager**

**Sunday December 10, 2017, 1-4 p.m.**

Fun and tasty things are in store again this year. Bring your friends. Here is what's happening:

### **Special Events:**

At 1:15--Member **Mari Carlson** entertains with some wonderful fiddle music.

At 2:15--Members **Erin and Eric Carlson** offer the annual Santa Lucia parade and song.

At 3:15--Member **Mary Elworthy** pumps up the organ in the parlor. Sing along caroling.

**In the Basement:** All welcome, especially youngsters.

Make a Viking ship  
Color a Dalarna horse  
Make a tree decoration

**In the Dining Room:** Here are some of the things already planned: almond cake, sandbakkels, Swedish rye bread, cheeses, herring, crackers, cookies, cold cider, coffee, lefse, and more.

**We invite YOU to bring a treat for the table.**

**The more wonderful tastes the better.**

Greeters will organize mini-tours, including the newspaper room and library upstairs.

**Ager House T-Shirts will be available for sale at the Advent party.**

On behalf of the **Program Committee**, thanks for attending and supporting programs, activities, and classes this year. We wish you well this holiday season and in the new year.

Mary Elworthy  
Vicky Finstad  
Jeanette Fredrickson  
Tim Hirsch  
Doug Pearson  
Marilyn and Roger Skatrud  
Helen Wurtzel

## Programs in Review--2017

- March 23 We celebrated Waldemar Ager's birthday.
- March 25 We listened to the stories of Norwegian tale teller Lise Lunge-Larsen.
- May 17 Montessori school children helped us celebrate Syttende Mai at noon on the front lawn of the Ager Museum.
- May 17 We joined Norden Folk and Sons of Norway at the annual banquet and program celebrating Norwegian Constitution Day, Syttende Mai.
- June 13 Kubb for Kids (in conjunction with Eau Claire Parks and Recreation)
- June 18 We celebrated Midsommar at the Ager Museum.
- July/ August Nordic Camp for Kids.
- September 18 We honored journalist Ron Buckli and local ski jumpers.
- October Annual Meeting
- December 10 We once again will enjoy Advent at the Ager.

Our main goal was to reach a variety of audiences with high quality cultural programming. We think we achieved the goal. We had especially good attendance at the spring and fall programs and a very exciting array of activities and experiences on Syttende Mai.

## Classes in Review—2017

- Spring Beginning Norwegian, Beginning Rosemaling
- September, October, November: Beginning and Continuing Norwegian, Advanced Norwegian

## Tentative Program Plans for 2018

### Bag Lunch at the Ager Museum

Watch a Norwegian TV program, chat, have your lunch. See separate invitation in this newsletter.

### Game Day at the Ager Museum

Come to play cards, Monopoly, chess, checkers, computer games. Learn Hnefatafl. Have fun. All ages. Bring your friends. Light refreshments.

**Saturday, January 6, 1 - 3**

**Saturday, February 3, 1 – 3**

### Book Discussion

**Saturday, March 3, 1 – 2**

Discussion of Fredrik Bachman's *Bear Town*.

### Spring Program

**Tentative Date**

**Monday, March 12**

Theme: Henrik Ibsen and *An Enemy of the People*

Tentative Speaker: Susan Brantly, Scandinavian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Tentative: Birthday Party for Ager, Friday, Mar 23**

**May 17**

Syttende Mai on the front lawn at noon

**May 17**

Syttende Mai Banquet and Program, Best Western Plus (Eau Claire)

**May 23**

Coach trip to the Guthrie to see *An Enemy of the People* (see sidebar)

### Summer Program

**June 7**

**June 12??**

**mid-June**

**July 30 – Aug 2**

Kids

**Fall Program**

**mid-September**

One suggestion is a program on Ole Bull.

**Winter Program**

December 9

Advent at the Ager

### Tentative Plan for Classes—2018

Norwegian and Rosemaling:

We hope to offer more classes, more frequently.

Please send us your suggestions. Tell us if you are willing to offer a class.

Questions? Contact...

Doug Pearson: 715 834 5204 pearsoda@uewc.edu

## The President's Page—By Robert Fossum

*News from Chetek:* Winter arrived early. We have had snow deep enough to plow and the lake ice is closing in on the dock at Ager's Huldrestua on Prairie Lake. Our Ager Volunteers are planning a wonderful Advent at the Ager on 10 December at 1:00 p.m. Music, fellowship, and good food will be in plentiful supply. Mark your calendars for this event.

The Business Meeting was held in October. Two important items of business were conducted. The members elected officers and directors and approved new bylaws. Florence Weise will continue as Recording Secretary and Kathryn Larson will join us as a Director. One reason for amending the bylaws was to include articles that will allow the organization to affiliate with the Wisconsin Historical Society.

In early November President Fossum joined Greg Kocker, John Sarnowski, and John Friend (pictured below) in presenting a paper that describes the successful effort to digitize the *Reform*. Friend described how he made the necessary images from the microfilm copies of the newspaper. Sarnowski told how ResCarta then produced the searchable files and Kocker told how the UW-EC provided the website for the search engine. There was a good bit of interest from the audience.

**It should be mentioned that Greg Kocker, who received the State Historical Society 2017 Governor's Archives Award for Advocacy in November, will become the Association's vice-president. Also at the same ceremony Bob Gough was a co-recipient of State Historical Society Book of Merit Award. Congratulations to Director Professor Gough.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**God Jul og Godt Nytt År**



## TA Fem! (Take Five)

There's a new program at the Ager House: 5 weeks 5 dollars 5 shows  
5 words 5 chances to enjoy a little "hygge"

Bring \$5 to the Ager House **Mondays Jan 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 5 from 11:30-12:30** and watch Norwegian sitcom episodes while you eat your own bag lunch.

Mari Carlson, beginning Norwegian instructor at Ager House, will prepare participants for a 30-40- minute show each week from NRK, Norwegian TV, before we eat and watch.

No matter your Norwegian fluency (if any at all!), immerse yourself briefly in Norwegian language and comedic culture while a few new vocabulary words help make sense of your experience.

"Hygge" is Danish/Norsk for "cozy," "charming," "a precious, shared moment." This isn't a language class, rather, a relaxed setting in which to beat the winter blues by trying something new, together. Programs are family friendly, but beware that Norwegians are more lax than we are about nudity and swearing.

Registration not required. Come as few or as many weeks as you wish. –Doug

**Instead of our regular picture page, our membership renewal envelope is included in this issue of the Newsletter. Please use it to renew for 2018.**

**Would you also like to include a membership for a child or a friend?**

**Would you like to become a life member?**

**Our membership cost structure has increased slightly due to increased operating costs, but it is still very reasonable.**

**Regular membership: \$30**

**Sustaining membership: \$60**

**Supporting membership: \$120**

**Life membership remains at \$1000.**

### **Yard Sale Fund Raiser Thursday, June 7, 2018**

Our treasurer noted at the Annual Meeting in October that current expenses for operating the Ager Museum are exceeding our income. The assembly approved increasing the amounts of donation for the various levels of membership. Those increases help, but we are resorting to another yard sale.

We earned \$1,200 in a sale in 2016. We hope to do even better in 2018 on Thursday, June 7. Please help us by setting aside items you are willing to donate for the sale. We hope for items that reflect Scandinavian culture and history (books, artifacts, decorative pieces, special clothing, furniture, etc.). But household items and other objects of value such as tools are also welcome. In May we will announce the time and place for delivery of donations.

Questions or suggestions? Contact Doug Pearson: 715 834 5204; pearsoda@uewc.edu

**Save the date: Thursday June 7, 2018**

## The Ager Library Report by Norb Wurtzel

### More About Ole Bull—

In our last issue we mentioned Ole Bull's failed dream of developing a community named Oleana in the New World. He bought land, recruited people but the socialistic experiment failed. In the book ***Ole Bull—Norway's Romantic Musician and Cosmopolitan Patriot***. (ML418 .B8 H38) by Einar Haugen and Camilla Cai, we find insights into his successes as well as his failures. A child prodigy on the violin—he was admitted to the Bergen orchestra as first violin at the age of 8. He was hailed as “the Paganini of the North.” Some critics labeled him a charlatan for his seemingly magic tricks on the violin. But his friends and admirers included Liszt, Emerson, Wagner, Hans Christian Andersen, Ibsen and Bjornson. Today, we might say he ran with an elite crowd!

Aside from his attempted real estate development, his musical tours of America were highly successful. On a musical tour in 1869-70, he spent time in California and the western states before coming to Madison, WI where he was the guest of the Thorp family. Joseph Thorp had been elected to the state senate. The Thorps were living in Madison after making a fortune in the logging business of northern Wisconsin.

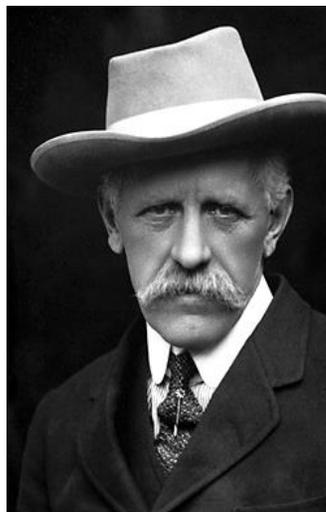
Mrs. Thorp hinted about an affair between Bull and her daughter Sara to Madison's Social Elite. Was it true? If you check out this book you will learn what transpired between the meddling Mrs. Thorp, her daughter Sara and Ole Bull.

## Fridtjof Nansen—Explorer and Humanitarian

Tuesday Oct. 10, 2017, marked the 156<sup>th</sup> birthday of the great Norwegian Arctic explorer Fridtjof (pronounced fritch-off) Nansen. Born in Norway in 1861, he grew up with a love for skiing, figure skating, art and science. As a young man, he channeled his interests into the exploration of the Arctic, and his adventures resulted in many important scientific contributions.

As he grew older, he became a great humanitarian. From 1920 until his death he acted as administrator of the League of Nations' High Commission for Refugees. At the end of World War I he accepted the responsibility of repatriating 450,000 prisoners of war. He believed that the free movement of refugees was essential for establishing a stable international community. He understood that for some it was too dangerous to return to their native countries.

To promote this, he invented the “Nansen Passport” as a means to identify stateless refugees. Fifty-two nations accepted this form of ID. In his years as administrator he helped hundreds of thousands of refugees—from nations such as Russia, Turkey, Greek, Armenia and Germany. The model he developed for managing refugees is still used today—custodial care, repatriation, rehabilitation, resettlement, emigration, integration.



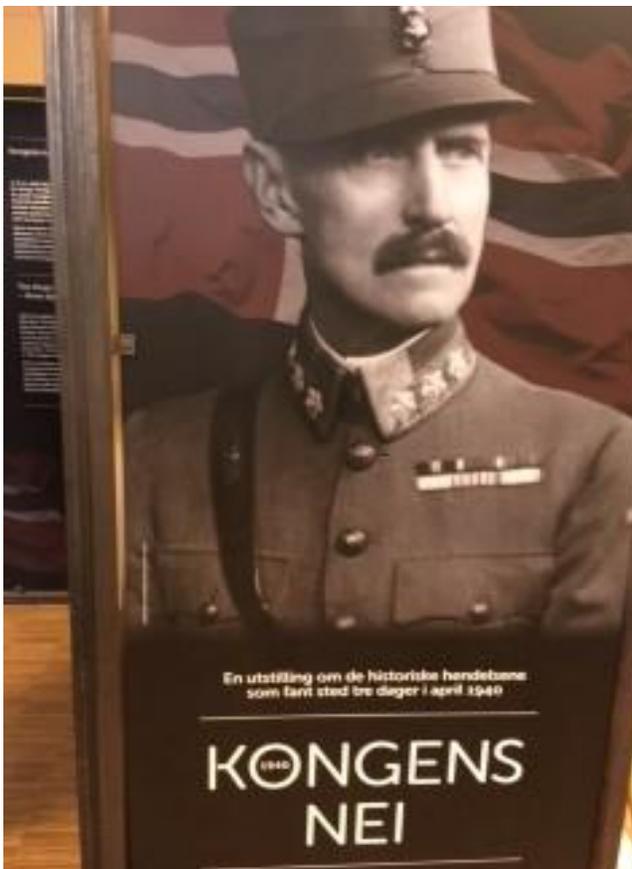
Nansen was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1922. He died in 1930. He is remembered today for his astonishing ability to recognize problems and deliver solutions.

--Ella Fossum

#1. The memorial at the Falstad Forest, near the Falstad Center and Museum, the former POW camp near Trondheim. This was at the site where 200 + prisoners were executed by the Nazis during WWII.



#2. Our tour group was surprised to learn that we would be viewing the film, “Kongens Nei,” (The King’s Choice), which was one of the nominees for the “Best Foreign Film” in the 2017 Oscars. King Haakon VII refused to abdicate when the Nazis took over the Norwegian government.



## Adventure in Norway—Summer 2017

Although Miriam Hansen has retired from her volunteer position in the Ager Library, and she and Jan have moved to Madison, she shares below four stops during the Hansens’ recent tour to Norway:

#3. Two of the tour participants enter one of many bunkers and tunnels in Bud, a town on the west coast, where the Nazis guarded the fjords near Molde.



#4. On the final stop Char Brekke of Grand Forks, ND and Jan Hansen, were interviewed by *Østlendingen*, a newspaper in Elverum, when they learned that we were in town. They were interested in our whole tour, and were surprised that 41 Americans were on an educational tour about the occupation of Norway during WWII. This is the huge headline that later appeared in their newspaper.

**41 amerikanere ville til byen der kong Haakon sa nei til tyskerne. Det fikset Visit Elverum-regionen. (41 Americans visiting Elverum, the city where King Haakon said “No” to Hitler’s demand that Norway must surrender.)**

Miriam Hansen

**The Ager Association  
2018 Board of Directors**

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**Items for next newsletter must  
be received by Feb. 14, 2018.**

**Visit our website [Agerhouse.org](http://Agerhouse.org) for  
more color photos.**

**New Members**

Mari & John Carlson—Eau Claire  
Ann Kuhlman—Bloomer  
Jeff Pritchard—Chippewa Falls  
Nancy Yost—Eau Claire

**Contributions (since July 2017)**

Trygve Rhude—In memory of Ev Krigsvold  
Waldemar Ager  
Mari Carlson  
Doug Pearson  
Kathleen Stokker—In memory of George Oluf Stokker  
A.K. Hellum  
Kristine Bejin—In memory of Lauren Ager & Roger Ager

**Acquisitions**

Victoria Finstad—*Selected Plays of Marcus Thrane,*  
*Edvard Grieg—Diaries, Articles, Speeches*

**Ager Association Dues for 2018**

It's time to renew Ager memberships for the coming year. Annual memberships expire on December 31 each year. (See your membership year on the mailing label of your newsletter.)

Annual income in the last few years has been insufficient to cover the cost of the operations and programs being offered at the Ager Museum. Therefore, your board has decided to raise dues for the first time in many years. You may want to consider stepping up to the next membership level as well. The board encourages additional contributions and memorials from those who are able so we can continue to expand our mission and offer new programs.

At the October 16 Board meeting dues for 2018 were set as follows:

**Regular membership: \$30**  
**Sustaining membership: \$60**  
**Supporting membership: \$120**  
**Life membership remains at \$1000.**

**Mailing Labels**

Please check to see if your mailing address is correct. The U.S. Postal Service may be delivering your copy to a forwarding address. . . temporarily. When that forwarding address expires, the Newsletter will be returned to us. Send us a note or email ([StanFredrickson01@gmail.com](mailto:StanFredrickson01@gmail.com)) so we can correct your contact information. Thanks! —Stan Fredrickson, Treasurer

**Revised Bylaws Adopted**

At the Annual Meeting, the proposed revisions of the Bylaws were adopted. The principal changes include provisions to meet the requirements for affiliation with the Wisconsin Historical Society, restructure standing committees, adopt a fiscal year that ends December 31 and consolidate various changes previously approved but not incorporated in the current printing. See Ager website for the complete text, or request an email copy or a printed copy by mail. —Stan Fredrickson, Treasurer

The Waldemar Ager Association  
P.O. Box 1742  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1742

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**Join us on Wednesday May 23, 2018  
For A Coach Trip to the Guthrie  
(open to members and the public)**

Ride a Kobussen coach from Eau Claire to the Guthrie Theater. Dine at any of about eight area restaurants. Attend the matinee (1 p.m.) presentation of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*. Return to Eau Claire by about 5:45 p.m. Cost for coach fare and ticket: \$45.

Return the form below **by April 20, 2018.**

Name(s):

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Number of tickets:            x        \$45                            Total Payment: \$

Make check payable to the Ager Association. Send to

**Treasurer, Waldemar Ager Association, PO Box 1742, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1742**

**Ticket purchase not refundable. Wait list taken so that purchased tickets may be resold.**