

The Ager Newsletter

Waldemar Ager Museum

February, March, April

2020

Coming Events

Board Meetings, Ager Museum,
Monday, March 16, April 20,
at 9:30 a.m.

Book Club Discussion:
Outrage, by Arnalddur Indriðason.
On Monday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.
See more about Book Discussion
on page 5.

Open House:
2nd and 4th Saturdays of the
month, from 10 – 2. Third
Wednesdays, from 4 -7. Note
Special Events on pages 6 and 7.

CultureFest (formerly the
International Folk Fair) at Davies
Center, UW-Eau Claire, from noon
to 4, Sunday, April 19. More p. 5.

Syttende Mai, Holiday Inn South,
Sunday, May 17. See page 5.

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

Global Warming: Impact on the Native Inupiaq People in Arctic, Alaska

Monday, March 2, at 7 p.m.
L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library



See page 5 for more information about this program.

President's Column: Thank You

Last fall, the Waldemar Ager Association's Board of Directors committed to a fundraising project to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our organization. Our goal was clear, we needed to stabilize and restore the front porch of the Ager Museum. Beyond the house's significance as the home of Ager and his family, the house is an architectural landmark of our community. Further, it is one of very few landmarks celebrating Nordic heritage in the Upper Midwest. This year, as you may know, we hope to complete a project to restore the beauty of the front porch. Our association has received a tremendous amount of support from our members and we are nearly half-way to our fundraising goal. This is great news, but I want to again call upon you to consider a contribution to support this important project.



This issue of the newsletter acknowledges many of the individuals who have already contributed to this campaign or provided other gifts to the Association. We are grateful for this support. Once again, this issue of our newsletter includes a membership envelope. These envelopes include an appeal to provide a gift supporting our 25th anniversary campaign. Please consider supporting our campaign with a gift in any amount. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2020, consider providing a gift along with your renewal. These funds are vital for our project and the future of our Association.

As always, our Association aims to make 2020 even more successful than 2019. In addition to many of our unique programs, classes, and other events we will unveil a new website in 2020. Our new website will provide a portal to valuable information about our Association and the many activities we sponsor, host, and organize. The site will also provide links to learn more about our library, donate to the association, and become a member. I hope you will check out our new site at agerhouse.org.

Greg Kocken (kockeng@uwec.edu)
President, Waldemar Ager Association

Thanks Shall You Have . . . A Special Word about Docents

In January 2017, the Ager Association began a regular program of open house dates. Now, moving into our fourth year of thrice-monthly openings, it is time to say thank you to those who were there at the start and the many others who have pitched in along the way.

Oscar Brandser
Mary Elworthy
Ingrid Coobs
Tim Hirsch
Robert Gough
Greg Kocken

Dianne Lueder
Jeff Pritchard
Carol Anderson
Norb Wurtzel
Jane Pederson
Kathryn Larson

Roger and Marilyn Skatrud
Jeanette and Stan Fredrickson
Florence and Dennis Weise
Ella Fossum
Marty Zens
Linda McClelland

Update on Front Porch Restoration Board Approval Pending for Summer Work

Construction Back in the late 1990s



Board member **Marty Zens** took the leadership to find a contractor for the porch renewal. Zens reports that he scheduled appointments with six contractors on the night of our Wednesday open house in January. Three contractors showed. Only Roger Storlie has given a bid. The other contractors did not seem too engaged because of the small scope of the work.

Zens says that Storlie was very interested in the job. Storlie is of Norwegian ancestry (from Storli--no e on the end). The Storlie family has linkage to the village, about 160 km SW of Trondheim. Storlie said he knew nothing of Ager and the House prior to our inquiry to him. So Zens gave him a tour. He was fired up to be in the house and might have continuing interest personally--maybe with membership. Zens says that Storlie would be a great asset for future carpentry work. He also has a painter that he teams with and has included the painting in the bid.

Zens reports that his efforts to find grant support for the Ager Museum project have not yet led to success.

Advent at the Ager December 8, 2019



The traditional Christmas event was held on Sunday, December 8. About 40 people attended the event. But few of us took photos this year.

But there were enough of us to empty most of the plates on the dining table twice over. In the photo above, Roger Skatrud (he made the rømmegrøt), is reaching for a slice of Jon Carlson's wonderful rye bread. The other savories and sweets were equally wonderful, including pickled herring, the favorite of all the youngsters. Mari Carlson entertained with fiddle playing and also coordinated this year's caroling efforts.

Ja, vi elskered and did a few dances too. We admired the Christmas tree but didn't stay long enough to see the candles in the windows light up the house and brighten the neighborhood.

I'm sorry to say to those of you who missed this party, you missed a good time. And we didn't save any goodies for you.

Plan Ahead

Two events of interest in April and May

CultureFest at Davies, UW-Eau Claire
Sunday, April 19, 2020, from noon to 4.

Formerly the International Folk Fair, held in Davies Center, UW-Eau Claire the new fest is a larger event including international and other cultures. A day of food, fun, and festival.

Syttende Mai at Holiday Inn South, Eau Claire
Sunday, May 17. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Banquet, program, silent auction.

Speaker: Professor Emeritus Ivar Lunde. How Norwegian music has evolved since 1814. You'll be amazed.

Also About to Launch

New website design, new webmaster. Look for more information in the next newsletter. Be sure to **renew your membership** before mid-May. Use the enclosed envelope or our online payment system.

Book Discussion Group

In January, the group discussed and highly recommends *The Nordic Theory of Everything* by Finnish writer Anu Partanen. She offers compelling considerations of Finnish and American relationships: parents and children, men and women, employers and employees, government and citizens. She argues that Finnish culture values the individual in society by making it possible for every person to thrive.

On Monday (note the date change from what was announced in the last newsletter), **March 16**, the group will meet at 6:30 to discuss *Outrage* by Icelandic author Arnaldur Indriðason. The group has not yet decided on the book for May. If you have suggestions, send them to pearsoda@uwec.edu.

Global Warming

The Impact on the Native Inupiaq People in Arctic, Alaska Monday, March 2, EC Public Library

Roger Skatrud will share his experiences among the Inupiaq on the island village of Shishmaref, Alaska, a village accessible only by plane 100 miles from its closest neighbor, Nome, Alaska. Life in this village is threatened by the autumn storms and the warming of the waters of the Chukchi Sea. Villagers watch buildings slip into the sea, and they struggle with the decision to move their village. Since 1980, their island home has shrunk from about four miles wide to about a quarter of a mile today.

Skatrud, who lived and pastored among the islanders, will discuss 150 years of Inupiaq history and culture including the role of the U.S. government and its efforts to force the Inupiaq to abandon their nomadic lifestyle and settle down in one location. Inupiaq life is grounded in their traditional beliefs and subsistence existence. Skatrud also explores the role of Norwegian missionaries and reindeer herders knowledgeable in the care of reindeer herds.

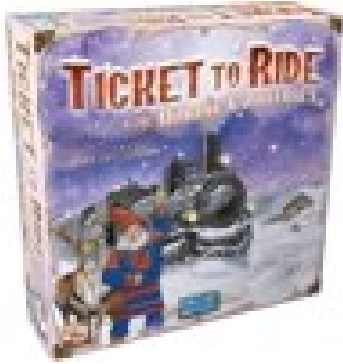
Skatrud was born in Eastern Wisconsin graduated from Luther College (1957) and Luther Seminary (1961). He was married to Marilyn Sorlien in 1959. He served as a Lutheran pastor in Medina, North Dakota, Shawano and Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Roger and Marilyn are presently residents of Eau Claire. After retiring in 2000, he has served as an interim pastor in Eau Claire and in Nome and Shishmaref, Alaska. While serving in Shishmaref, Roger and Marilyn experienced life among the Native Alaskan people on an island that is disappearing into the sea. As global warming increases, they are faced with the necessity of moving their village and losing their unique way of life.

Special Open House Events

Rosemaling with **Patsy Vork** on Saturday, January 25.



On Wednesday, February 19, **Jon Carlson** introduced guests to the game of "Ticket to Ride."



Classes

Language

Advanced Norwegian

Eldbjørg Tobin is offering a course in Advanced Norwegian. The course begins with chapter 25 in Kathleen Stokker's book *Norsk, Nordmenn and Norge* working on translations, vocabulary, conversations, reading, etc. The class meets 8 times from 5 to 6:15 p.m. on Thursdays starting on March 19 and ending on May 7. At the Waldemar Ager Museum. Cost is \$80 for current (2020) members of the Association, \$85 for nonmembers. **Registration form** at agerhouse.org.

The Ager Association 2020 Board of Directors

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Items for next newsletter must be received by May 18, 2020.

Visit our website Agerhouse.org to view the digital version of the newsletter and also find out more about the organization.

If you have a story or an item you would like to share, please contact us. We would like to hear from you.

—Doug Pearson (pearsoda@uwec.edu)

Monthly Open House Events

2nd and 4th Saturdays: 10 – 2

3rd Wednesdays, 4 – 7

Special Events in March and April Bring your friends.

~ **March 28**, from 10 -11

Mary Elworthy offers practical help with Nordic needle work.



~ **April 25**, from noon to 2

Deb Jarvar and Mari Carlson offer help with genealogical searches for Norwegian ancestry.

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Want to Be a Docent?

We need more docents. We hope you will become a docent volunteer.

Docent training will happen on Saturday, March 28, and Saturday, April 25, at 9:30 a.m., both days. Contact Doug Pearson (715 834 5204) or pearsoda@uwec.edu.

Members and Friends

New Members (as of February 18, 2020)

Mike and Diane Lund
Marian Ritland
Anthony Rongstad

Contributions

25th Anniversary Fund

Carol and Peter Anderson
Roger Anderson
Susan Avery
Mari and Jon Carlson
Stacy Culver
Debbie and Bob Gough
Marilyn Hagen
Richard Hagen
Karen and Tim Hirsch
Martha and Michael O'Halloran
Miriam and Jan Hansen
Sue and Doug Pearson
Marilyn and Roger Skatrud
Dorothy Sorlie and Jim Urness
Florence and Dennis Weise

In Honor and Memory

Carol and Peter Anderson, in honor of Ella Fossum
Mary Elworthy, in memory of Laila Mae Pederson
Miriam and Jan Hansen, in memory of Jeanette Fredrickson
Susan Avery, in memory of Wally Ager, Tom Avery, and Roger Ager
Tommy Tompkins, in memory of Bob Osterhus and Rod Johnson

Membership

Thanks to all who have joined or renewed memberships for 2020. Your mailing information on this issue indicates whether you are a current member (2020) or a past member (and the date). We acknowledge those who have life memberships with a plus sign after the year typed on the address sheet (2020+).

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

Global Warming

And

The Inupiaq of Shishmaref, Alaska

A Talk by Roger Skatrud

In the Eau Claire Room

The L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library

Eau Claire, WI

~ Monday, March 2, starting at 7 p.m. ~