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2017 Event Schedule

Date and Time	Event	Location
10/21/17 at 6:30 pm	Fall Harvest Dinner	Spindletop Hall
12/3/17 from 2 to 4 pm	Practice for Lucia	Gethsemane Lutheran Church
12/9/17 from 7-9	Lucia	Gethsemane Lutheran Church

On Saturday, May 20, we gathered to celebrate Syttende Mai at Calvary Baptist church Picnic area. It was a perfect cool sunny day. Asmund Vego described his childhood memories of celebrations in Norway and we all enjoyed our picnics with ice cream and cake to follow. Ours is a very congenial group and we have a great time. Photos follow:

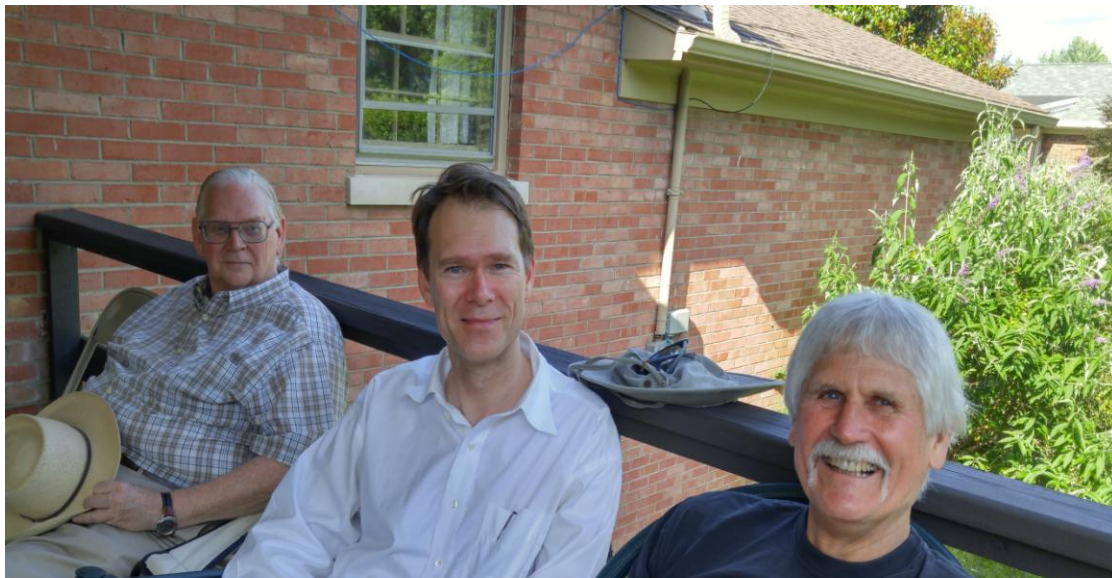




On June 24, we met at Anne Keating's house to Celebrate Midsommar. Heavy rain fell the night before and the morning of the event, but The weather cleared and we had a perfect sunny day, and not too hot. David Williams and Craig Olson created an amazing Midsommarstang or Maypole. We had fabulous food as you will see in the photos, even reindeer sausage! Photos to follow!



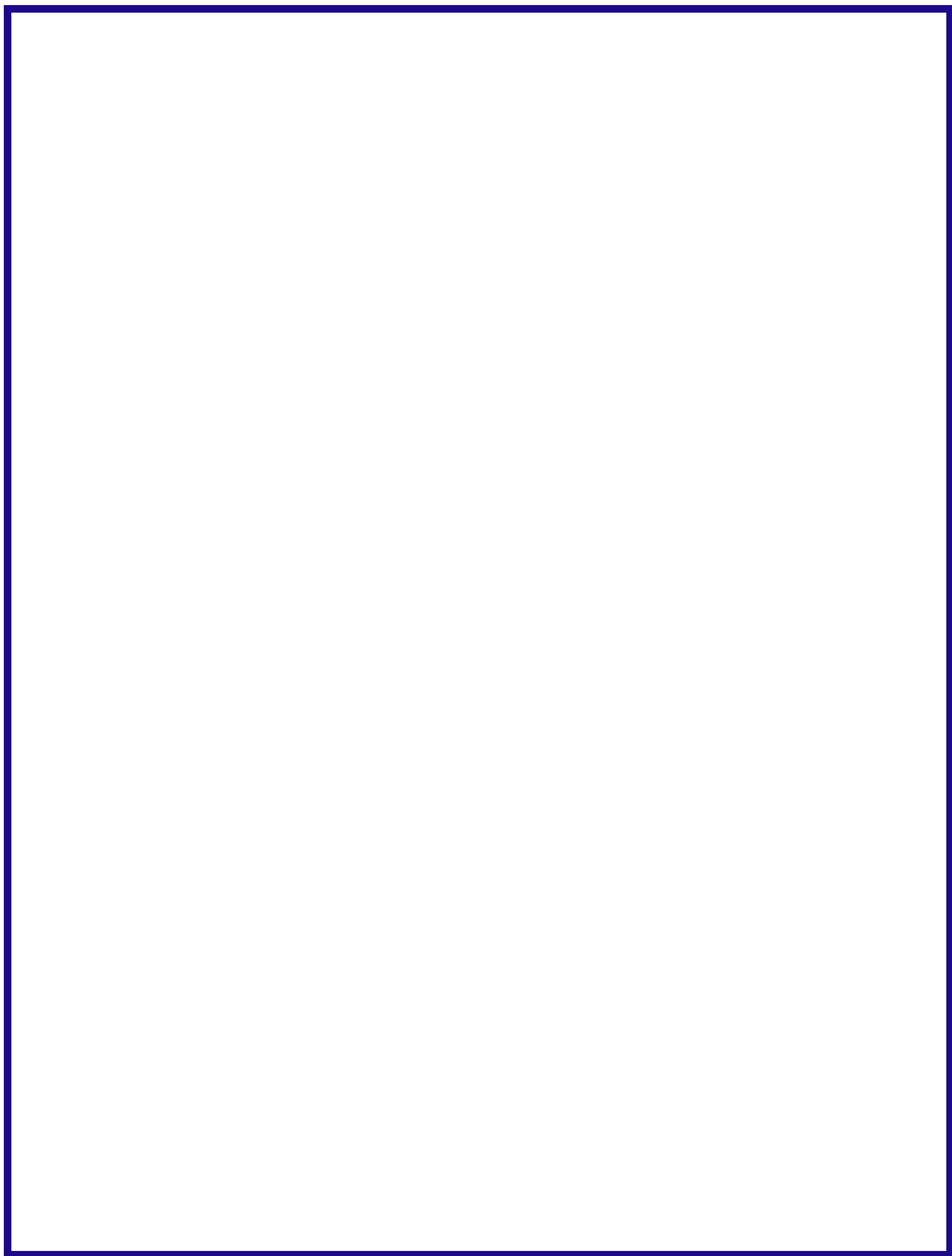




Did you know that the tradition of the Maypole exists in many places in Europe, especially Scandinavia, Germany, Austria, Britain and even Italy? Some places put up the pole on April 30 or May 1st, in Scandinavia on Midsommar. Some are very tall, and have to be erected by cranes. They have a variety of designs, and yet all seem to be part of a general celebration of Spring, renewal and and time to get together as a community. Over the centuries, the practice at times has been considered controversial when members of religious groups and rulers may have considered the practice irreverent or impolitic. Yet it has persisted as very enjoyable spring celebration. (Keep in mind that even in the 19th century, many religious groups frowned on such activities as acting, going to the theater, and playing cards.) The practice in Italy may have something to do with a tradition that goes back to the days of the Napoleonic campaigns, according to Wikipedia, my faithful source. There, people erected a liberty tree in honor of the French Revolution. Later the event became affiliated with the International Workers Day, and a red flag was to be placed at the top of the tree. It was a celebration of Spring, but also represented a symbol of the peasants movement for better conditions from the landowners.

Our next gathering will be on October 21, the Fall Harvest Dinner at Spindletop. We will meet at 6:30 to mingle and dinner will be served at 7 Pm. Thomas Hakasson has kindly agreed to be our speaker. Please write the date down on your calendars!

Marcia Moser has been in the hospital in Lexington, after the surgery on her leg in December failed to correct the various fractures successfully. Please keep Marcia in your thoughts. Ken Hansson is on the mend after a challenging year. Bill Hedberg also is feeling better. If you have news you would like to share with the membership, please let me know.



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