Laurann Gilbertson, Vesterheim Curator, Will Speak at the Fall Meeting on October 5, 2012

“Should We Save It?” will be the topic of discussion at the Ager Association’s Fall Meeting and Program with speaker Laurann Gilbertson. Ms. Gilbertson is the Chief Curator at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. She has explained that museums exist to build, study, and preserve collections of objects, and the job of the curator is to make this mission happen. Using a variety of objects, Laurann will discuss why we should save pieces of our past and what makes them “museum quality.”

She will include information about how museums make choices about objects based on appropriateness to mission, duplication, and condition. And she will talk about how we, at the Ager House, can make wise decisions about what we should collect and preserve.

She will bring Waldemar Ager’s pencil jar with her to display during her presentation. The jar was donated to Vesterheim Museum long before the Ager Association existed. Ager wrote primarily in pencil and used each pencil down to the “stub.” Numerous stubs were collected in a jar through the years, and that jar is now part of the Vesterheim collection.

Ms. Gilbertson’s talk will begin immediately following the Ager Association’s Meeting, which is scheduled for 7 p.m., at the Senior Center in Eau Claire on Friday, October 5, 2012. Refreshments will follow the program. Members and guests are invited to attend the meeting, the program, and the social hour following to enjoy an evening of learning and fun.
Roald Sneve Ager
Son of Waldemar and Gurolle Ager
Died on August 16, 2012

It is with sorrow that we bring you this message of Roald Ager’s death. He was the last surviving child of Waldemar and Gurolle Ager, and, with his death, another generation of the Ager Family has passed on. His obituary follows.

Roald Sneve Ager, 98, of Barron, Wisconsin, passed away on Thursday, August 16, 2012, at Monroe Manor in Barron, where he had resided for the past five years. He had previously lived in Cumberland, Wisconsin.

Roald was born on October 4, 1913, at the Ager family home in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to Waldemar Theodor and Gurolle (Blestren) Ager. He was the seventh of nine children. He graduated from Eau Claire Senior High School and Eau Claire State Teachers College, now the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He also attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned a Master’s Degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

For a number of years after college, Roald worked at the United States Rubber Company in Eau Claire. Later, he moved to Illinois and taught in junior high schools in Cicero, Illinois and in Park Ridge, Illinois. He retired from teaching in 1974 and moved to his home near Cumberland, Wisconsin. Roald never married.

Roald loved nature and the out-of-doors, chopping wood, animals, baseball, reading, and crossword puzzles.

Roald was a longtime member (over 50 years) of the Masonic Order – Eau Claire Lodge #112. He was a lifetime member of the National Education Association and of the Ager Association in Eau Claire.

He was preceded in death by his parents and all of his siblings and their spouses: Eyvind (Inga) Ager, Gudrun (Milo) Bergh, Trygve (Elvira) Ager, Valborg (Arnt) Oyen, Solveig (John) Best, Magne Ager, Hildur (Albert) Nicolai, and Borghild (Richard) Derge. A nephew, Roald Andreas Ager, also preceded him in death.

Roald is survived by his nieces and nephews: Waldemar Theodor (Charlotte) Ager, Borgny Ager, Frederik (Mariann) Ager, Karren Bloom, Barbara (Fritz) Culver, Tryg (Judy) Ager, Ella Fossum, Rolfe Ager, Hildur (Steve) Gleason, Waldemar Ager Oyen, John (Carol) Best, Marilyn (Roger) Reinart, Richard (Sherene) Nicolai, Frederick (Barbara) Nicolai, and Frank Derge. He is further survived by many great-nieces and great-nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m., on Saturday, September 8, 2012, in the chapel at First Lutheran Church, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, with Pastor Michael Rehak officiating. Burial will be at Lakeview Cemetery in Eau Claire. Rausch and Steel Funeral home.
In John Peterson’s translation from the *Reform*, Ager makes some droll observations about the population make-up of Eau Claire.

**The 1920 Census**  
From the *Reform*, 28 February 1922

According to a newly published document from the 1920 Census, there live in Eau Claire 1,592 persons born in Norway compared to 1,924 ten years ago. In addition there are 728 born in Germany, 454 in Canada and 110 in Austria. Sweden has 185, Denmark, 62, and Ireland, 91.

All the numbers show quite a few less than ten years ago. The reason, possibly, is many born abroad preferring not to give their birthplaces. There are certainly quite a few, over twice as many of Norwegian descent here in the city, who speak and read Norwegian and take part in Norwegian organizations and congregations, but many of these have come from the country districts.

**Norwegians in Eau Claire**  
From the *Reform*, 4 February 1926

How many adults are there in Eau Claire who bear the familiar name of Olson? Most would readily guess between 50 and 100. According to the new City Directory it is 193. Already enough to populate a congregation of only Olsons! And there are 113 who are named Larson. A large Sons of Norway lodge of only Larsons! There are certainly a large number of Hanson and Johnson and Nelson families, but there are people who are not Scandinavians among them. But with the Olsons and Larsons, you can bite yourself on the nose if they are not Norwegian or Scandinavian.

*Translated by John Peterson*

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**Women’s Studies Class Meets at Ager House**

On May 16, 2012, Dr. Barbara L. Kernan, from the Women’s Studies Department at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, brought her “Women and Artifacts” class to the Ager House for their final class presentations. They met in the living room. Each student had researched an item that had been passed on from generation to generation in her family. Each item was physically described, its value estimated, and its history in the family explored. Among the items discussed were a World War I scrapbook, a pair of salt and pepper shakers, some religious items, an infant carrier of the type used for centuries in the Hmong community, dolls, and items from a great-grandparent’s stay in a mental hospital. The presentations were, truly, thoughtful and interesting insights into the heritage of each student.

Refreshments were served in the dining room. The meeting was open to Ager Association members. Jan and Miriam Hansen, Ken Ziehr and Ella Fossum attended. All are looking forward to Dr. Kernan ‘s return with her classes next year.
An Open House and Celebration were held at the Ager House on Saturday, June 16, 2012, to commemorate Midsummer’s Eve. Children and adults learned to make flower crowns with the help of Erin Anderson. Others learned to play Kubb outside on the lawn with Eric Anderson. Tours were given to guests, and a good time was had by all!
Ager House Language and Folk Art Classes – Fall 2012
(All Classes are held at the Ager House, 514 West Madison Street, Eau Claire, WI.)

Beginning Norwegian – John Bjerke, Instructor: This is an eight week class on Monday evenings from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., beginning on September 10, 2012. The fee is $70.00 for the eight week session. Some materials will be furnished from the book, Norsk, by Kathleen Stokker.

Continuing Norwegian – Eldbjorg Tobin, Instructor: This is an eight week class on Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m., beginning on September 13, 2012. The fee is $70.00 for the eight week session. Kathleen Stokker’s book, Norsk, will be used.

German I for Beginners – Karen Wilber, Instructor: This is a six week class on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., beginning on September 19, 2012. The fee is $65.00 for the six week session plus the cost of the book, Your First 100 Words in German: German for Total Beginners through Puzzles and Games, payable at the first class session. Minimum class size is six students.

Hardanger Embroidery – Louise Koxlien, Instructor: This is a five week class on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., beginning on September 13, 2012. It continues through October 11, 2012. The fee is $38.00. It is limited to twelve students.

Drop-in Rosemaling: Each Friday, from 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., rosemalers meet at the Ager House to work on rosemaling projects and to enjoy the camaraderie of others. The suggested donation is $5.00 per day. Anyone interested in rosemaling should call Mary Beth Wold at 715.456.5219 or 715.835.7410 for further information or stop at the Ager House on any Friday between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

For additional class information, call Ev Krigsvold at 715.835.8718. To register for the classes, use the registration form below, and mail it, with your check, to the address indicated.

Ager House Language and Folk Art Registration – Fall 2012

Class Title: ____________________________________________

Amount of Fee Enclosed: ________________________________

Name of Student: ______________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________

City: __________________ State: ______ Zip Code: ______

Telephone: __________________________________________

Email: ______________________________________________

Make checks payable to: W.T. Ager Association
Send completed form and payment to: Ev Krigsvold, Ager Classes
2830 Thirteenth Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703

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New Members Welcome!

If you are a member of the Ager Association, you will notice a change on your address label this month. For those who paid their dues to become, or to continue to be, members of the organization this calendar year, you will notice 2012 in parentheses after your name. That indicates that you are a member of the group through the 2012 calendar year. Memberships will be offered in early 2013 for next year, and the number will be changed on your label when your dues are paid. If you are a lifetime member, that should be indicated on your label in parentheses also. If you are not a current member, and you would like to become one now, you can send a check to the Ager Association, P.O. Box 1742, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1742, and your new membership will carry-over to all of 2013. Details are on the Ager House Website at: Agerhouse.org

A Social Painting Event!

If you have been waiting to get back to rosemaling, NOW is the time!

The Ager group will be rosemaling wonderful wooden bowls on September 28, 29, & 30, 2012.

Designed by Marlys Hammer, the rosemaling is a beautiful Christmas pattern that can be displayed all year ‘round.

Call for more information at: 715.456.5219 to reserve your spot in the group.
There are only 12 bowls, so space is limited.

Tom Tompkins Reports on House Repairs

Recently, the carpenter completed the back porch post repair, and it looks great. The lower portion of the post repair is painted with green deck stain, and the upper portion with white primer. In the coming weeks, we will buy more deck stain and primer, so we can refinish the porch decks, latticework, steps, and ramp, as well as the white trim and latticework along the sides of the decks and ramp. This is a first step in our list of necessary repairs.

Please join us for FALL CLEANUP DAYS at the Ager House on October 4 & 5!
We will remind you via email.

EMAILS
If you are not receiving emails from the Ager Association now and then, you should be! Please send your email address to Norb Wurtzel at nkw1@charter.net
CHEERFUL PEOPLE GATHERED TOGETHER.

A CONTEST WAS HELD.

MIGHTY BATTLES WERE FOUGHT.

AND THE KUBBSICLES CARRIED HOME THE KING.
Welcome to the Ager House Resource Library! For the last two years we have been busy cataloging books and organizing the library. We have a small but interesting collection of materials related to Scandinavia and covering a wide selection of topics. Our periodical collection is also growing, and for the first time it is organized and labeled. Thanks to many of our readers, most of our collection has been donated, but we are also interested in adding more current titles.

Though many of the books are in Norwegian, about half of the collection is in English, and you’ll find a few books in Danish and Swedish. In case you don’t read Norsk, you can find many interesting English language books about Norwegian history and culture. Here are a few samples of titles and authors, along with the Library of Congress catalog numbers:

- *A History of Norway*, by Karen Larsen (DL448.L33)
- *West Norway and Its Fjords*, by Frank Stagg (DL453.S83)
- *They Did Not Have Horns: The Viking Kings of Norway*, by Mildred Pearson (DL534.D47)

If you’d like to check your Norwegian language skills, but you’d like an English translation too, try these bilingual books:

- *Familien på Skaugum* by Annemor Møst (DL537.A2F3). Learn about the former king of Norway, Olaf, and his family. Marvelous photos!
- *Kings of Norway: 58 Bilingual Stories in English and Norwegian* by Anders Kvåle Rue (DL444.1AR53).

John Peterson has agreed to be our library contact person. If you would like to use the library when the house is not open, you can make an appointment by calling him at 714.552.0865 or emailing <johnpet@charter.net>.

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Chippewa Valley Museum to Celebrate Uffda-Palooza

Each year the CVM sponsors a dinner to highlight different ethnic groups in the area. This year, Norway is the choice! The evening will include a Norwegian dinner buffet followed by a program and music with dancing afterward at Florian Gardens on Thursday evening, September 27, 2012. For further information, please call 715.834.7871.
The Ager Association
2012 Board of Directors

Ella Fossum, President
Ella_fossum@wi.rr.com
262.554.6014

Ella Paulson, Vice President
elliepaulson@citizens-tel.net
715.967.2222

Richard Kozbial, Secretary
richardkozbial@yahoo.com
715.855.7837

John Peterson, Corresponding Secretary
johnpet@charter.net
715.552.0865

Stan Hillestad, Treasurer
hill33@charter.net
715.834.3749

Leon Salander, Education
le-sal@att.net
715.839.0102

Miriam Hansen, Librarian
hansenjm@uwec.edu
715.835.6179

Eric Anderson, Programing
eem_anderson@yahoo.com
715.830.0122

Frank Smoot,
f.smoot@cvmuseum.com
715.834.8781

Carol Anderson
pcanderson@yahoo.com
715.834.7891

Ken Ziehr, Past President
kenziehr@charter.net
715.832.0956

Steve Loken, Webmaster
bravo@sjloken.com

Carolyn Barstad, Layout Editor
cjbarstad@charter.net

Gifts and Donations to the Ager Association

Thank you to the following people for their generous gifts to the Ager Association over the past months.

Donations to the General Fund
Hildur and Steve Gleason
Mary Kohler
Martha and Michael O’Halloran
John D. Peterson

Donations to the Endowment Fund
Hildur and Steve Gleason

Memorial Donations
Waldemar T. Ager in memory of Eyvind and Inga Ager – for the General Fund
Waldemar T. Ager in memory of his brother, Roald Ager – for the General Fund
Vicki and James Anderson in memory of Gudrun Ager Bergh – for the General Fund
Elaine M. Berg in memory of Alf Hjembo
Barbara and Fritz Culver in memory of Gudrun and Milo Bergh – for the General Fund
Jan and Miriam Hansen in memory of Alf Hjembo
Evelyn Krigsvold in memory of Alf Hjembo
Rick and Sherene Nicolai in memory of Hildur Ager Gleason – for the General Fund
John D. Peterson in memory of Shirley Olsen Sorenson – for the General Fund
Ken and Lynne Ziehr in memory of Alf Hjembo

Recent Acquisitions
Roger Dale: Wood ware, pattern books and other materials for rosemaling
Borgny Ager: Humor book, Humoristske Oplaesninger av Dialoger, and a dictionary that belonged to her father
Ellie Paulson: Dining room table

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to work on the Syttende Mai Celebration for May, 2013. If you are interested, please contact Ken Ziehr at: 715.832.0956 or kenziehr@charter.net.
Here is our new banner signaling our co-sponsorship in the kubb tournament.