



VOL LXI
June 7, 2023

2023 Event Schedule		
June 24 3 PM	Midsummer Celebration	608 Raintree Road

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SHSKY will celebrate Midsummer at my house at the above address, starting at 3 PM. David W. is bringing over the Midsummer pole before he and Jaci, Craig and Mary Ann take off for Iceland and Greenland! We look forward to A future program on their adventures! If you have extra flowers, please bring them to help decorate the pole. We also have some artificial ones to use as needed. If you have time to prepare a dish to share, we will have our usual feast! Vi ses snart!

I recommend Vikings! by Magnus Magnusson. It is well written and full of fascinating lore. He describes one of the first raids of Lindisfarne, an island (a little south of Scotland) in the Northumberland region of England (NE) in 793. By that date, England had many monasteries.

Around 597, Pope Gregory the Great sent St. Augustine with 40 other religious figures to the Kingdom of Kent to bring Christianity to an area populated by Angles and Saxons, who had come over from Germany after Rome fell, and settled. The monasteries became centers of culture, and learning, and also repositories of beautiful art and wealth. The Lindisfarne Gospels are known for their exquisite beauty of script and colored illustrations. Magnusson notes that an attack on Lindisfarne was thought to be an attack on civilization itself.

Alcuin, of York, described what happened as follows:

Scandinavian Heritage Society P.2

Lo, it is nearly 350 years that we and our fathers have inhabited this most lovely land, and never before has such terror appeared in Britain as we have now suffered from a pagan race, nor was it thought that such an inroad from the sea could be made. Behold the church of St. Cuthbert spattered with the blood of the priests of God, despoiled of all its ornaments; a place more venerable than all in Britain is given as a prey to pagan peoples . . . What should be expected for other places when the divine judgment has not spared this holy place? (Loyn, 55-6)

Many of the monasteries were near the coast as it seemed that the sea would provide protection from enemies. While that worked for awhile, the Vikings had developed remarkable new ships, beautifully designed for navigation and for landing in shallow waters. They used a large sail, but also had double sets of oars. You may have seen a photo of the Gokstad ship which was discovered in 1880. It is located at Bygdoy in a Viking Ship Hall. It is a work of art as well.

In 1893, according to Magnusson, Magnus Andersen built a replica, with a few modifications, and sailed it from Bergen to Newfoundland in 28 days, and took it to the World's Fair in Chicago. (Reportedly, it is still in Chicago.) The crew found the ship to be remarkable; even with a lot of weight, the ship rode higher than expected in the water. While the Hull, rudder and gunwales were flexible, the ship remained water tight. Magnusson went on a smaller reconstruction and said it was an exhilarating experience to feel the ship responding even as the sailors were working at maximum effort. (What wouldn't I give for a ride in one!)

There are many theories regarding the reason for the raids: growing population, production of iron ore, international trading which Magnusson points out always leads to piracy as well, a search for new farm land. Under primogeniture only the eldest son could inherit land which left the others without similar prospects. Looking back to the fall of the Roman Empire, when the Rhine froze, the Vandals in Germany took their opportunity to have what they saw happening across the river, according to Thomas Cahill who wrote How the Irish Saved Civilization. There, farming made it possible to store crops and have plenty for the winter. In any event, the Vandals stormed across by the Thousands and overwhelmed the Roman soldiers. Perhaps our ancestors also became aware of an easier way of life, and in addition to attacks and piracy, sought it out!

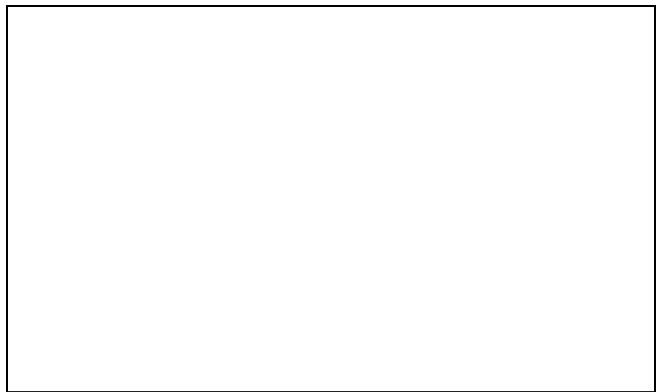
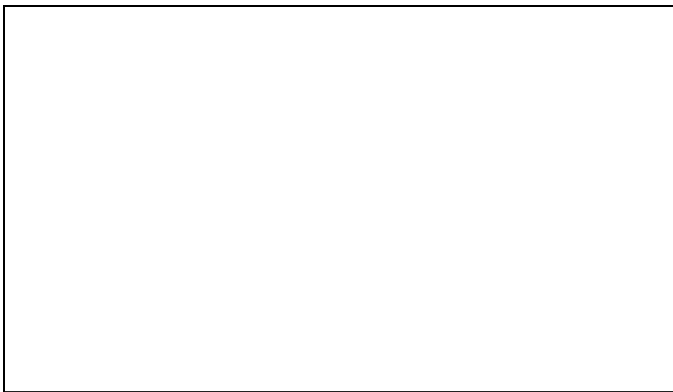
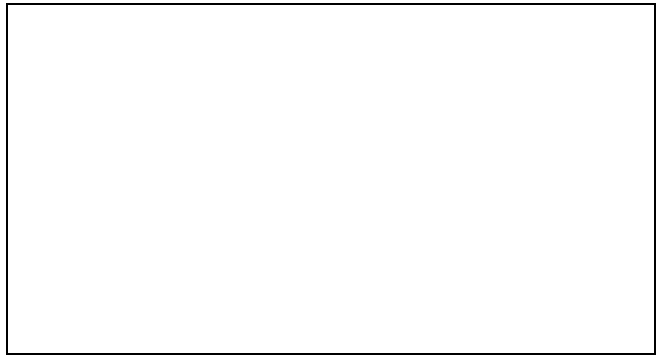
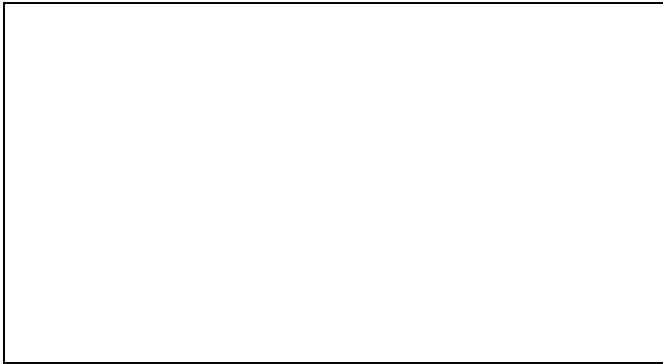
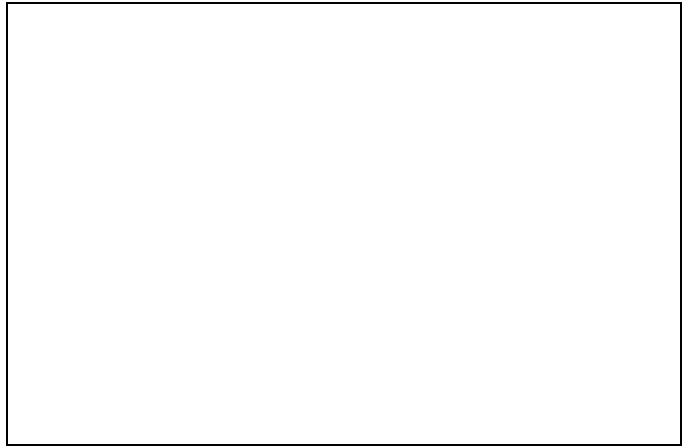
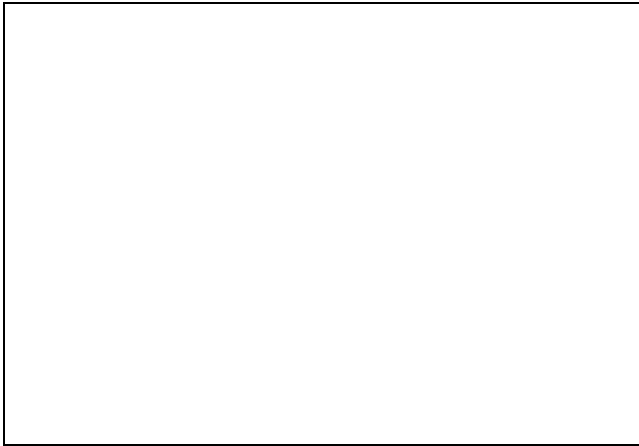


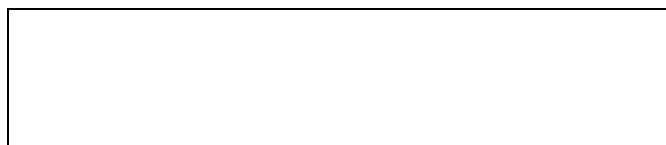
Marion Soule celebrated her 95th birthday on May 13 this year! Annette and Dick Mathey had a party for her at Morning Pointe and Marion really Enjoyed it. Warmest congratulations, Marion!

Below, you will see our 17th of May Celebration Of Norwegian Independence Day! It was a Beautiful day!

See you on the 24th for Midsummer!







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