Fifty years, a half-century: The very thought conjures up notions of a special occasion. This year marked the 50th anniversary of Vesterheim’s Folk Art School and, along with it, the National Norwegian-American Folk Art Exhibition and tours to Norway. In honor of this significant milestone, we added even more classes to our schedule, including rosemaling with Norwegian instructor Turid Helle Farland. We also presented a 50 Years of Folk Art exhibition and printed a special December issue of Vesterheim magazine to share memories and celebrate how we became the premiere place to learn authentic Norwegian folk art.

From very humble beginnings in 1967, when renowned rosemaler Sigmund Aarseth from Valdres, Norway, taught the first class, until today, we have striven to bring you, our members and friends, the best of what we have to offer. The welcoming spirit of the teachers, staff, volunteers, and students at Vesterheim’s Folk Art School foster a lifelong enthusiasm and many, many friendships.

It’s Vesterheim’s commitment to building a sense of family, a community through camaraderie that permeates everything we do. This year, we were excited to share Skål! Scandinavian Spirits, a traveling exhibit from the Museum of Danish America. Programming included a members-only aquavit tasting and food pairing, guided by Christer Andre Olsen from the Norwegian company Arcus, plus a free public aquavit tasting, a progressive tasting party, and an aquavit making workshop.

Vesterheim’s staff family grew this year, too. Shawna Wagner joined the team as Director of Development; Zach Row-Heyveld came on as Exhibitions Manager; Karla Brown is our Development Events Coordinator; and Katherine Johnson became our Coordinator of Tours to Norway. These staff positions are essential for us to continue quality, engaging programming and welcome new members to our growing community.
Two enthusiastic flag wavers cheer on the parade at the Syttende Mai celebration. Vesterheim celebrated the May 17th event with a children's parade, live music, performance by the Nordic Dancers, and more. The event was sponsored by Jeff and Marilyn Roverud and the Sons of Norway Valdres Lodge #503.

How many people benefit from Vesterheim’s efforts to connect us to our roots?
- Annually, more than 15,000 Norwegian Americans and their friends either visit the museum or attend folk-art and cooking classes.
- Nationwide, 13 institutions, including the Norwegian Embassy, display important objects from Vesterheim’s collection of 33,000 artifacts, sharing the Norwegian-American experience with all.
- Through Vesterheim magazine, over 5,400 homes and Norwegian groups receive the stories of our people, past and present, delivered to their doorstep.
- Vesterheim’s website logged nearly 120,000 visits last year—all people who care about Norwegian culture and folk art like we do.

Vesterheim is first and foremost a community, and this year, many among us chose to support our community with financial gifts. We are incredibly grateful to all those who gave any size gift so we can continue to share events, exhibits, facilities, and programs.

Area school children enjoy the Window on the World (WOW) Program. In 2016, WOW was sponsored by Gundersen Health System. Pictured from left to right are Chris Johnson, President/CEO; Sarah Havens and Bruce Friell of Gundersen; Shawna Wagner, Director of Development; and Nicholas Klein, Gifts Officer.

Two enthusiastic flag wavers cheer on the parade at the Syttende Mai celebration. Vesterheim celebrated the May 17th event with a children’s parade, live music, performance by the Nordic Dancers, and more. The event was sponsored by Jeff and Marilyn Roverud and the Sons of Norway Valdres Lodge #503.
Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum
Revenue and Expenses
Year Ended December 31, 2016

Revenue, Gains, and Other Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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Expenses

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Revenue

- Contributions: 33.3%
- Investment Return: 35.7%
- Merchandise Sales: 10.0%
- Tours & Tuition Fees: 13.2%
- Admissions & Memberships: 5.8%
- Events: 1.6%
- Rental & Other: 0.4%

Expenses

- Payroll & Benefits: 38.9%
- Events, Tours & Classes: 21.4%
- Merchandise: 9.2%
- Professional Services: 5.3%
- Depreciation: 6.8%
- Operating Expenses: 5.4%
- Telephone, Postage & Utilities: 3.7%
- Printing & Advertising: 4.5%
- Maintenance & Repairs: 3.9%
- Collection Care: 0.7%
- Interest Expense: 0.4%
Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum
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Your contributions provide the financial support that keeps Vesterheim strong and all are deeply appreciated. It is with sincere thanks and humble gratitude that we recognize every person and organization listed here.

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James and Joy Erickson
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<td>Karin Gorud Scovill</td>
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Endowment funds earn income annually, a portion of which is used for each endowment’s stated purpose. The remainder of the income is reinvested to perpetuate the endowment.

We invite contributions to any of the listed endowment funds, or the creation of new named endowments. A gift of $25,000 or more can create a new named endowment and can be an enduring way to honor or memorialize a friend or family member.

Building endowment funds is one of the most important ways to ensure Vesterheim’s financial health. Each gift is an investment in the future of Vesterheim, one of America’s most treasured cultural resources.

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