

Hilsen familie,

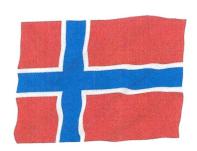
As we come in to 2023, we can look back and reflect on the joys, sorrows, trials and tribulations and developing a new "normal" due to the Pandemic over the past three years. However; a couple of things will never changed as we welcomed new members to the Benrud family by birth or marriage and said goodbye to loved ones . While they may be gone, their memories and traditions will live on through us in our hearts, minds and actions.

With the cancellation of the 2020 Reunion, the Benrud Board began discussing the 2025 Reunion. It will be held August 1-3, 2025 at the Best Western Plus in La Crescent, MN (and Norskedalen near Coon Valley, WI). We will send information as it gets closer. If you have not already done so, please go to Facebook and join the Benrud Family Facebook page as information is shared there also.

Please continue to submit articles for the next edition of the Benrud Reader and any family changes (births, deaths, marriages, divorces, etc) to Julie Backus for the Family Tree. I hope all have a wonderful 2023 and look forward to seeing everyone in 2025.

Mange velsignelser,

Kameo "Benrud" Maynard





UPDATES AND NEWS:

Family updates (births, deaths, marriages, address) should still be sent to Julie Backus, 891 N Roadrunner Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119 or jewelsdi@yahoo.com.

Family updates can also be made on the website pages.

All submissions can be sent to benrudreader@gmail.com.

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Benrud Vision Statement

The members of the Benrud Family foster traditions of family, heritage, and culture.

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Check out the Benrud Family Web Site

Go to www.benrudfamily.org to find your family history, past Benrud Readers, photos and more.

Benrud Mission Statement

The Benrud Family will provide opportunities for members to maintain contact with one another, to learn about the culture common to all of them, and to gather in celebration of their family heritage.

Calling all "Benruds"

Hello from the currently oldest serving Benrud Board Member (42 years and counting!). I volunteered to do the family tree beginning in 1980. My first family tree was done on a 64 K computer that almost ran out of memory as I word processed the information! Three family tree software programs later, we now have a software program (Family Historian 7) that is very powerful and can produce amazing detailed reports about family lineage and much more.

We now have a Facebook page, a website, and still have our reunions every 5 years since 1950 (except for 2020). That cancellation took a blow to our connections and it is very important that we all work together to try to reconnect and provide data so that our family ties and information is maintained.

So regardless of how old you are (you don't have to be retired), we need your assistance. There is a ballot in this newsletter to allow you to vote on some officer positions that are vacant. What does an officer or director do? In the beginning, most communication was by letter and some phone calls. We also met once per year between reunions to plan for the next reunion. Now we have added texts, e-mail, Zoom and group phone calls in addition to meetings most years in the vicinity of the reunion. So regardless of where you live in the US or Canada or beyond, you can serve on the board.

Each position has important responsibilities but the Directors are especially critical. Your task is to keep your branch (we have 5) current with births, deaths, marriages, e-mails, addresses, and phone #, as well as other information. Yes, it is a big task, especially for our largest branch — Lena. We also ask the branch directors to have a display of pictures, etc. at the Family Reunion. These displays have already been done and can be added to as needed. As the Family Tree Editor, I also get many updates directly and through the form on our website. It is rewarding because many family members really appreciate the work that is done by the Board. If you have questions or need more information, reach out to me or another board member. Put the 2025 Benrud Reunion on your calendar as a very important event!

Your "cousin",

Julie Olson Backus

jewelsdi@yahoo.com (414-745-4362)

| Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Reunion we currently have the following positions open: (Please vote for the person of your choosing) |
|---|
| Vice President: |
| Kameo Benrud Maynard (Anton) |
| Historian: |
| Marianne Vevang Groenland (Maren) |
| Anton Branch Director: |
| Write In |
| Ballots can be sent to Diane Olson Piper, President at <u>dianepiper4@gmail.com</u> or via mail at: |
| Diane Piper |
| 302 Eagle Avenue |
| Rockland, WI 54653 |
| Any questions please contact one of the Board Members! Thank you!!! |

A Note from the President

Dear Family:

Peder and Anne Soffie Benerud married in 1842 and in June of 1875 they set sail on the SS Haakon Adelson, together with Olava, Carl and Ole for American to join their children Maren, Lena, and Anton who had previously arrived in America. They sailed from Bergen, June 6 and arrived in New York, June 24. They then traveled by train to Sparta, WI and then on to Cashton, WI where they settled.

As we think of their journey, our 2025 Family Reunion where we can honor our ancestors will be held at the Best Western Plus in La Crescent, MN. The dates for the reunion are August 1 - 3, 2025. Reservations can be made after August 1, 2024.

Activities to include:

Friday: a pizza river boat cruise

<u>Saturday:</u> golf, food demonstrations, Kubb, afternoon activies at Norskedalen learning more about our heritage and Norwegian culture, The Benrud Amazing Race for all ages, kids games, ice cream, silent auction, wine/beer/cheese event.

<u>Sunday:</u> morning worship and so much more. Shirts, caps and bags to order also! We cannot doe this without your help. We are in need of a choir director, a pianist and a keyboard for Sunday morning. Can you help us with this? Please email benrudreader@gmail.com if you can. Thank you so much!

We are also in need of a Vice President. If interested please contact:

Diane Olson Piper Benrud President 608-487-1993 dianepiper4@gmail.com

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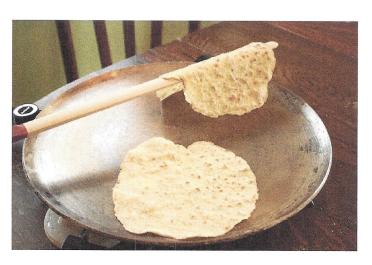
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Ann Benrud shared a short video (narrarated by Donald Benrud) on Facebook about lefse and it's important role in holiday traditions. See the link below to watch.

https://vimeo.com/32828030

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*******This list was compiled from the information Julie Backus has received. If we are missing a new addition or loss of a loved one we apologize. Please submit all of that information to Julie at jewelsdi@yahoo.com.******

New "BENRUDS" in 2022

Blakely Kay Klevan born to Thomas & Angela Klevan on January 3, 2022 (Carl branch).

Anderson John Carroll born to John and Amanda Long Carroll on January 4, 2022 (Lena branch).

Landry Ryan Mae born to Erin & PJ Mae on February 2, 2022 (Anton branch).

Amelia Baartz born to Justin and Melissa Haney Baartz on March 29, 2022 (Lena branch)

Simon Ezra Swanson born to Matt and Stacey Swanson on May 5, 2022. (Carl branch).

Maren Kay Gilbertson born to Joe and Emily Gilbertson on June 13, 2022 (Maren branch)

Tate Daniel Gilbertson born to Steve and Heather Gilbertson on July 8, 2022 (Maren branch).

Carolline Nathlye Mollenhauer born to Dylan and Emily Benrud Mollenhauer on August 15, 2022 (Carl branch)

Amelia Genell High born to Jared and Katie Strand High on August 28, 2022 (Carl branch)

Kennedy Grace Cohn was born to Steven and Maya Aaseby Cohn on September 20, 2022 (Anton branch).

Oskar Curtis McMahon was born to Kenneth and Andrea McMahon on June 4, 2022 (Anton branch).

Deaths in 2022

Wayne Curtis Swanson, died at the age of 72 on March 16, 2022. Wayne was the husband of Carolyn Benrud Swanson who was elected Benrud Board president in 2015 (Carl branch).

(Merlin) Russell Bakke of California died at the age of 77 on April 16, 2022 (Maren branch).

John Mark Roberts of Bethlehem, PA died at the age of 74 on May 6, 2022. John was the husband of Edith Benrud Roberts, the Benrud Board chaplain (Carl branch).

Rosemary Severson Wilmes, Bloomington, MN died at the age of 94 on July 7, 2022 (Lena branch).

Lois Kuenzel Peterson, Burnsville, MN died at the age of 90 on July 20, 2022. Lois was the wife of Dr. Palmer Peterson and mother of current Benrud Board member Paula O'Keefe (Olava branch).

Janice Hovland Benrud, of St. Paul, MN, died at the age of 85 on July 29, 2022. Janice was the wife of Donald E. Benrud (Anton branch).

Kenneth Bert McBride, Kindersley, Canada died at the age of 72 on August 23, 2022 (Maren branch). (Ken was a previous Vice President – Canada on the Benrud Board)

Wayne Homstad of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, died at the age of 77 on September 10, 2022. Wayne was President of the Benrud Board from 2005-2010 (Olava branch).

Arlys Boesch Halverson of Truman, Minnesota, died at the age of 99 on September 11, 2022. She was the wife of Luverne Halverson (Lena branch).

Richard Schetter of Waukesha, WI, died at the age of 87 on October 15, 2022. Richard was the husband of Joyce Olson Schetter (Maren branch).

Irene Olson Fawcett of Regina, Canada died at the age of 94 on December 20, 2022 (Maren branch).

Richard Crawford Anderson of Denton, TX died at the age of 86 on November 13, 2022 (Lena).

Anton





Annie Benrud & Jake Johnston were married August 11, 2022 in Mackinac Island, MI. Annie is the daughter of Allen Benrud and Teri Benrud, grand-daughter of Jim and Sophie Benrud.

Tiffany Sell and Logan Cooper were married October 16, 2022 at the Red River Zoo, Fargo, ND. Tiffany is the daughter of Amy Benrud; granddaughter of Bruce & Ruth Benrud, greatgranddaughter of Jim and Sophie Benrud.









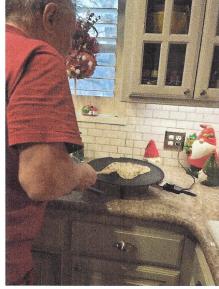
Franklin Malek were married August 31, 2019 at the Benrud Little White Chapel. Megan is the daughter of Paul & Martha Benrud.



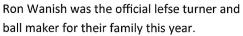


Taylor Maynard and Todd Everson Jr were married October 9, 2021 in Bayfield, WI. Taylor is the daughter of Kameo Benrud Maynard, granddaughter of Allen Benrud and great-grand daughter of Jim & Sophie Benrud.











Jeffrie Maynard (son of Kameo Benrud Maynard) wanted a tattoo in memory of his uncle Curt Benrud who was the driving force of moving the Chapel to it's current location at Norskedalen. He chose the Benrud Little White Chapel.

Mike and Iris Othrow were fortunate to have a gathering during the holidays with their entire family. The only one not in the photo is their daughter-in-law as she took the picture. The group grew with two more babies in 2022.



Carl



Lunch with sisters: Carolyn, Julie and Sue



Carolyn with her grandchildren: Elli, Simon and Naomi

Wayne C. Swanson



Wayne Curtis Swanson of Crystal, MN passed away March 16, 2022 at the age of 72. Wayne served in the U.S. Army that included a year in Sinop, Turkey where he worked in communications. His career was spent as a machinist. Wayne is survived by his wife Carolyn Benrud Swanson (Carl Branch) and son Matthew (Stacey) and three grandchildren: Elli, Naomi and Simon.



Edith Benrud Roberts and Erik
Benrud visited several places in
Norway in June of 2022. They
stayed with Ragnar Ostbye, who
is pictured with his friend Reidun
Nordeng at supper with Erik and
Edith. The trip included a visit to
the ancestral Benerud farm
where Edith is pictured. Many
churches were on the agenda
including the Sister Churches
where Erik is standing. Erik and
Edith also attended the Hamar
Medieval Festival at the site of
the beautiful Hamar Domkirke.

John M. Roberts, 74, of Bethlehem died peacefully into his Lord's hands on May 6, 2022, after a struggle with Lewey Body Dimentia. Known as Jack to his family, he was the beloved husband of the Rev. Edith Benrud Robers (Carl Branch), with whom he would have celebrated 52 years of marriage on June 28, 2022. He was the beloved father of John D. (Genevieve), Jarrod (Stacy) and Raechel Goldberg (Joshua) and grandfather of six. A member of MENSA, he was a creative and inspiring teacher who spent a majority of his career teaching gifted students. He was also the perfect pastor's spounse, complementing his wife's 33 years of active ministry. He loved reading and read thousands of books in his lifetime, passing along his love of reading to both his children and grandchildren, as he would sit for hours readting to them. He loved music and participated in the music ministry of several congregations, both singing and playing his guitar. Until the Pandemic began, he and Eith took grandchildren on summer hiking vacations in New England. He was not a avid traveler, but because he loved his wife, he traveled as far as Alaska, and Hawaii and to 16 different counties. And because he knew that she loved to travel, he stayed home to care for her cats and water her plants so she could travel the world.





Katie Strand married
Jared High in Rochester,
MN on January 9, 2021.
Pictured are parents
Paul and Jan (Benrud)
Strand, Katie and Jared
High, Andy and Marley
Strand and Adeline
Strand.

Marlin(1/11/30—10/30/20) (grandson of Carl P Benrud) and his wife Oryen (8/2/29—11/3/20) Benrud passed away. They lived in Goodhue County Minnesota their whole lives. They were married in 1963 and are survived by two children and their families. David Benrud and Jan Strand—both of Kenyon, MN.

Nathlye Benrud (7/30/31-2/10/21) wife of Donald Benrud (grandson of Carl P Benrud) passed away in Red Wing, MN. She and Donald were married in 1950 and farmed in Goodhue County. She is survived by children—Wanda Carlstrom, Jerry Benrud, Cindy Ryan, and Roger Benrud and their families.

Lena



Last photo of Verna (Peterson) Christensen with her family. Only Vic Christensen, her son is missing.

Kay Swaim (Lena),
Carole Wanish (Anton)
and Lori McGee (Anton)
met for an after Christmas brunch.

From left front : David Swaim, Kay Swaim, David McGee

From right front: Ron Wanish, Carole Wanish, Lori McGee



LENA NEWS 2020



On January 19, my son and wife, Matt and Julia Studer, welcomed the arrival of their first child, Maeve Frances. Her chubby cheeks and wide eyes keep us smiling! They live in Portland, OR.

Next I was lucky enough to discover the Last Will and Testament of Lars Anderson! Lars passed away in December of 1910. However, his Will is dated 12/13/1911 and filed with the

clerk in January 1911 and approved for probate in March 1911. This is certainly a typo. The Will was talking about the crop year 1911 so it's easy to see how it could have been carried through at

the end of the document. The plat map shows the land transfers pursuant to Lars' Will. Edward M. Olson was Executor (husband of Lars' daughter Sofie) and Oliver Brager (a neighbor to the north) and W.L. Mitchell signed as witnesses.



Next to come, on March 20, 2020, was the marriage of Kelley Swaim and Cory Lytle of Oklahoma--smack dab in the middle of the virus. Cautiously they proceeded with the wedding and celebrated with a small group. Pictured here with the bride and

groom are Kelley's parents, David and Kay Swaim. Joan Halverson is grandmother of the bride. We wish them the best in their marriage!

Continuing on, in May,

I finally was able to view my great-grandmother's baptismal information thanks to Blaine Hedberg of the Westby (WI) Area Hist. Society. Grandmother Sophie, as I knew her, was called many combinations of Anne Soffie over the years. Her headstone has her as Annie Sophia and a funeral card has her as Anna Sophia Olson. While chatting with Diane Piper (Benrud board member) on Facebook, I mentioned that I couldn't find my great-grandmother's baptismal information



T. J. 03

Gustav

Elniar Anders

Anna Sofie (seated) with her daughter and son-in-law, Ted and Lula Julsen, and her husband, Ed Olson

up in WI. Within minutes it seemed, Blaine saw my post, got the details, and found the church record! She was baptized at the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Sparta, WI, as **Anna Sofie** on 2/15/1876. My sincere thanks to Blaine Hedberg. It never dawned on me that it could have been in Sparta. I wonder if that congregation is the same group that built the Benrud Little White Chapel that has been moved to Norskedahlen?

Other exciting news from the Oscar branch is the 40th wedding anniversary of Mark and Beth Long Miller. They were married on August 9, 1980. Beth is also celebrating her retirement from teaching at the Woodstock (IL) School System for 32 years!! Congratulations to the Millers!

Additional news on the Oscar branch is the marriage of Beth's niece, Amanda Long, who was married last October 26 to John Carroll in Polo, IL, and the birth of a baby boy (Levi) to another niece, Brittney Long. Both gals are daughters of Brad Long, Beth's brother.



Gary & Fran Huling and mother Vivian

Others that sent me updates are from the Elmer branch: Fran Huling of Hampton, IA, daughter of Earl/Vivian Anderson; Jacqueline Mathewson, daughter of Robert Norman/Dorothy Anderson, lives in Littleton, CO, and Elizabeth Anderson Gross, daughter of Everett/Mary Anderson (Lester/Marian), lives in the Boston, Mass. area. Elizabeth and her husband, Anthony, have two children: Maria, 6, and David, 4. Thank you all! It's good to hear from you!

And last but not least, are reports of family members we have lost over the last few years. Our sincere condolences go out to all these families: 1) Donald "Butch" Bredow, husband of Karen Nelson Bredow (Emma/Menton and Norma/Lester), died on 6/8/2019. Don apparently liked plaid

shirts as I saw on FB Karen and a granddaughter wearing them at the time of his death; 2) Gary Huling, husband of Frances Anderson Huling (Elmer/Bertha and Earl/Vivian), died on 9/19/2018 in Mason City

and is buried in Britt, Iowa (We enjoyed meeting both of these men when they attended our Anderson reunion in 2007 with their wives!); 3) Inga Lewis, daughter of Lula and Ted Julsen (Sophie/Ed) died on 8/17/2019; 4) Robert Cain, son of Inga Lewis (Sophie/Ed and Lula/Ted), died on 6/17/2018; 5) Leland Carter, Jr., grandson of Inga Lewis, son of Linda Koehler (Sophie/Ed and Lula/Ted) died 2/13/2009. These last three members of the family have lived in California for many years.



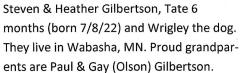
Sue and Len Olson with Butch (plaid shirt) and Karen Bredow (back to camera)

Maren



Joseph & Emily Gilbertson, Graham (will be 7 on 2/25/23 and Maren 7 months (born 6/13/22). They live in Eau Claire, WI.

Proud grandparents are Paul & Gay (Olson) Gilbertson







On Danielle Piper married Zachary Jaske on August 13, 2022. Parents of bride are Dale and Diane (Olson) Benrud (Maren Branch) Updates Needed

Death

Name

In the last year many of your children have grown up and moved to their own places. Be sure we have their addresses.

Family Branch (circle one): Maren, Olava, Lena, Carl, Anton

Also, new bables have been born and others in our family have died, we need your information to keep accurate records.

In our age of technology e-mail addresses are an important addition. Please e-mail jewelsdi@yahoo.com with your e-mail address or changes.

Please use the form below or the form on our web site (www.benrudfamily.org) to send new information and changes only to:

Date

Julie Backus

Family Tree Update Form



Cause of death

Name_ Middle First Maiden Last Address State or Province Zip or Postal Code Country City Phone, I E-Mail Occupation/Hobby_____ Marital Status (Circle one) Single, Married, Divorced, Widow, Widower Marriage/Divorce_____ Date of Marriage or (Circle One) Name of Spouse Birth date of Spouse Divorce Birth/Adoption Date of Birth and adoption Location of birth

Burial Location

This information will go on outside in open space under address (Below fold)



Next reunion is August 1 –3, 2025



Best Western Plus LaCrescent / LaCrosse

509 N Chestnut Street, La Crescent, Minnesota 55947 United States