



the Askeladden News



Sons of Norway • Askeladden Lodge 5-610 • Kalamazoo, Michigan

A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway

March

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No. 3-17

Moorhead Stave Church

4 p.m. Sunday, March 12

Trinity Lutheran Church

Please join us at 4 p.m. on Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church for our monthly Lodge meeting. The cultural program for this meeting is a 30-minute documentary on the Moorhead Stave Church.

The Moorhead Stave Church, located in Moorhead, Minnesota, is a full-scale replica of the Hopperstad Stavkirke in Vik, Norway. Constructed in 1998, the Moorhead Stave Church is located next to the museum that exhibits the Hjemkomst Viking Ship.

The Moorhead Stave Church is the product of Guy Paulson, an excellent woodcarver, who, when retiring in 1996 as a research scientist from North Dakota State University in Fargo, wanted to leave a monument in his community honoring the Norwegian and religious roots of his parents. Guy was assisted by many individuals in the construction of the Stave Church, but, without doubt, it was Guy's leadership which made his dream a reality.

Please bring a dish to pass for the meal, scheduled at 6 p.m. Ashli is in charge of the set-up for this meeting.

All events, cultural program, business meeting, and meal, will be in the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 South Westnedge Avenue, downtown Kalamazoo.

At Trinity Lutheran Church on Westnedge Ave, we meet in the lower level Fellowship Hall of the church. The entrance we use is at the rear corner of the church. There is an elevator at the rear of the church for those in need of it.

Meetings:

Monthly, most 2nd Sundays, 4 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
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Kalamazoo, MI

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ASKELADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

The Viking Era, roughly the 300 years between AD 800 to 1100, continues to be a popular topic in national publications.

The current issues (March, 2017) of *Smithsonian* and *National Geographic* both contain major articles on the Vikings.

The *Smithsonian* article, written by Tim Folger, attempts to explain why and how the Viking (or the descendants of the Vikings) left Greenland around 1400, after living there for 400 years. During this period, there were between 2,500 – 5,000 Norwegians living in Greenland.

Why. According to the author, the Norwegians left Greenland because of climate change (colder), change in the ivory market (preference for African elephant ivory over the walrus ivory from Greenland), and the Black Death, which killed 50% of Norway's population.

How. The author draws no convincing conclusions. There are written records, documenting the migration of a few Norwegians. But for the great majority, there is just speculation. Did they perish in the seas? Did they die in Greenland? Or did they migrate successfully back to Norway, leaving no record?

In *National Geographic*, the author writes about the adventurer mindset of the Viking. By using the most advanced technology and science in its day, the Viking developed a ship, which was capable of traveling thousands of miles on the high seas, encountering 50 different cultures over what is today 37 different nation-states.

The Viking explorations had a good side and a bad side. The good side was the trade and settlements that the Vikings accomplished. On the bad side, the Vikings slaughtered innocent people, destroyed property and settlements, and enslaved people.

Both articles, which have excellent photographs, are a must-read for any student of the Vikings.

Curtis A. Cleveland, Lodge President

Don't be late! Spring forward!

Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m.
Sunday, March 12. Don't forget to set your
clocks forward one hour the night before!

Welcome to Askeladden!

The Membership Committee would like to welcome recent new members Christy Lindbloom, Pamela and Ronald White, and Curt Osborn to our lodge. Our meetings and events provide opportunities to share our Norwegian heritage as well as fellowship with your fellow lodge members. We are so happy you've decided to join us in the celebration of our special heritage.

2017 Scholarship DEADLINE March 15

One of the important benefits of Sons of Norway membership is eligibility to apply for scholarships at three levels: Lodge, District, and National Foundation.

Lodge Scholarships - Applications for the 2017 Askeladden Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarships are due to Joyce Hare by March 15, 2017, and must be turned into her by that date. The application forms and all related information are available online at

www.norwayinkalamazoo.com Joyce's address is: 6909 Towhee, Portage, MI 49024. Please contact Joyce Hare at 269-327-5824 with any inquiries. Do not use the email address on our website for Joyce as it is obsolete and our webmaster has not updated it yet.

District 5 scholarships - Applications are due by March 15. There are several scholarships available and information can be found by visiting

sonsofnorway5.com/financial/scholarships.php

Note that all the District 5 scholarships - other than those related to the Masse Moro heritage camp - require a benefits member. S/N products which qualify for benefits include Nordic Elite, Term product, Viking 23 and annuities with a \$2,000 minimum.

The Sons of Norway Foundation - offers college scholarships starting at \$1,000 for current members, children or grandchildren of current members and some are available to non-members as well. Application deadlines changed this year, but there is still one Sons of Norway Foundation post-high school scholarships with a future deadline:

Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarship - open to women only wishing to pursue a degree in physics, chemistry, or engineering: mechanical, electrical, or mechanical. Applicants must be between the ages of 17-35, and other prerequisites apply. Awards vary. DEADLINE: April 1, 2017.

All of the Foundation scholarship applications can be viewed at

www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/

There are currently seven categories of scholarships offered for different areas of study. All scholarship applications are done online.

All of the information for the District and Foundation scholarships are available at the links provided. If you need additional information on our Lodge scholarship, contact the Scholarship Committee chair, Joyce Hare, at the contact information listed above.

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Roger Drong with questions or to reserve resources.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

2017 St. Patrick's Day Parade this Saturday - Please join us!

Joan Renaas O'Bryan

It's NOT TOO LATE to join your fellow lodge members on Saturday for our appearance in the local parade!

Our lodge has the opportunity to make our presence known to the greater Kalamazoo community in a fun and easy way. The 17th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Kalamazoo takes place Saturday morning, March 11. We provide the costumes as long as you sign up in advance. Call Joan (see page 1 for contact information) if you or your friends and family - including children, if supervised - are interested in walking with us. We are meeting in the alley near the Comerica building across from the Radisson by 10:30 a.m. if you have a simple costume, or slightly earlier if you have one that needs assembly.

February meeting recap

Curtis A. Cleveland, Cultural Committee Chair

Our February Lodge Meeting began with the national anthems performed on a five-string viola by David Code. Karin and David Code presented the Cultural Program "The Norwegian and Scottish Connection," speaking about their 2015 trip to Norway and Scotland. Karin won the Askeladden Lodge's drawing for the Norway trip in 2014.

During their presentation, which featured power point pictures, the Codes focused on the musical festivals they attended in both Norway and Scotland.

During the business meeting, the Lodge, by motion, changed the starting time of the monthly Lodge meetings, from 4 to 2 p.m, commencing with the May 21, 2017, meeting.

We enjoyed a fine meal, including hearty stew and soup and Scandinavian 5-of-Hearts waffles with several toppings for dessert. Holly Jensen was in charge of the set-up with assistance from Jean Darling. Before the meal, Karen Kunze led the singing of the Norwegian Table Prayer. In celebration of Mother's Day in Norway, every mother left with a beautiful carnation -- thanks to Joyce Hare for this thoughtful gesture.

Twelve members and two guests (Curt and Beverly Osborn) attended the meeting. Thanks to all who attended and participated.



At our February event we were treated to the national anthems on a five-string viola by David Code pictured here with Karin Code.



February Board of Directors Meeting

Curtis A. Cleveland

The Askeladden Board of Directors met on Tuesday, February 21, the first Board meeting of the year.

At this meeting, we approved several donations to local charities and Sons of Norway related groups, including: \$100 to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, \$100 to Ministry With Community, \$50 to the District 5 Barnebirkie, and \$100 to Ski For Light.

The Board approved a sponsorship grant of \$150 to the Sons of Norway Hockey Team of the Kalamazoo Adult Hockey League.

We spent most of this three-hour meeting discussing issues, including: past Lodge meetings, future cultural programs, Lodge Achievement form and other assessment forms, investment account at Bright Financial, New Member Dinners, website, upcoming scheduled increase in membership fees, recruiting and retaining members, sale and distribution of the book *Hidden Heroes*, and selection of merit winners of the Norway trip.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, April 25, 7 p.m., at the Earnie Best residence. All Lodge members are welcome to attend.

Cultural Skills Corner

Joyce Hare, Cultural Skills Coordinator

Do you remember all the packets of information on Cultural Skills that were available at many meetings in the past? Here's your opportunity to earn a Cultural Skills Medal and explore new learning for yourself.

With Winter not over and waiting upon Spring's arrival, you may want to catch up on a book which could count towards the Literature Skills Award, or maybe you are catching up on your family history and can show some mastery in Genealogy. How about those knitters, cooks, woodcarvers, or rosemalers who could show off their wares at a meeting and earn a Cultural Skill Award? Let's have at least two people earn an award this year. For more information on the 14 different awards available, visit the Sons of Norway website. You can print the requirements for the skill you most want to receive. Contact Joyce Hare if you would rather have her provide a copy for you.

**ASKELADDEN LODGE 5•610
 SONS OF NORWAY
 158 Bulkley Street
 Kalamazoo, MI 49006**



www.sonsofnorway.com

MARS KALENDER

- mars 1 - Askeonsdag - Ash Wednesday
- mars 8 - Den Internasjonale Kvinnedagen - International Women's Day
- mars 11 - **St. Patrick's Day parade** downtown Kalamazoo. Marchers and helpers meet by 10:30 am. Plan to join us for some fun!
- mars 12 - **Askeladden Lodge Program/meeting/potluck dinner**
 4:00 p.m. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. - spring forward!
- mars 13 - Commonwealth Day (Canada)
- mars 15 - Askeladden Lodge and District 5 Scholarship applications due
<http://sonsofnorway5.com>
- mars 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- mars 20 - First day of Spring
- mars 31 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

March Birthdays

David Sherman	Esden Stafne
Richard Adams	Joan O'Bryan
Druanna Darling	Betsy Fish
Robert Laird	Christina Sherman
Andrew Sherman	Mary Sue Dawsey
Margaret Schmieding	Arden Hetletvedt

Daylight Saving Time

Note that we will lose an hour as we spring forward on March 12, which coincides with our next lodge meeting and program. So plan ahead and set your clock forward by one hour before retiring on March 11.



The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.