



# the Askeladden News



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

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

April

[www.norwayinkalamazoo.com](http://www.norwayinkalamazoo.com)

[facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge](https://facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge)

No. 4-17

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

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## Growing up in German-Occupied Norway -- a First-Hand Perspective

### 4 p.m. Sunday, April 9

### Trinity Lutheran Church

Please join us for our monthly Lodge meeting on Sunday. Inger Thoen will present the Cultural Program, talking about her experiences in Oslo, Norway during the German Occupation, 1940-1945. Inger's talk will begin at 4:15 p.m.

April 9, the day of our Lodge meeting, is the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German invasion of Norway, which occurred in 1940. The German Occupation lasted five years, 1940-1945.

Before the meeting, be sure to read, or reread, Inger's article in the book *Hidden Heroes*. If you have purchased the book, bring it to the meeting so Inger may autograph the book. If you have not purchased the book, copies will be available at the meeting for \$20. Proceeds from the sales benefit the Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp.

Please bring a dish to pass for the meal, scheduled at 5:30 p.m. You may bring your own tableware, or some will be provided.

All events, cultural program, business session, and meal, will be in the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 South Westnedge Ave, 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.*

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Fra Presidenten

April 9 is a profound day in Norwegian history.

On April 9, 1940, the German Military invaded and began a five-year Occupation of Norway, ending in 1945. On the same day, the Germans invaded and began occupation of Denmark.

Prior to the German Invasion, Norway and the other Scandinavian countries adhered to a neutrality policy regarding the European War, which by April 1940 included Germany, Great Britain, France, USSR, and Poland.

The Norwegian and Danish governments responded differently to the German Invasions.

The Danish government surrendered immediately (that is, two hours after the invasion) to the Germans.

The Norwegians were defiant and acted differently. Hitler demanded that King Haakon VII appoint Vidkun Quisling, the leader of the Norwegian fascist party, as Prime Minister. King Haakon and the Norwegian Cabinet were against the appointment of Quisling as Prime Minister, which was equivalent to surrender to the Germans and acquiesce to the German Occupation.

The King and Cabinet made a daring escape from Oslo to Northern Norway (Tromsø) and eventually to London where they set up a government-in-exile.

Fortunately, the bulk of the Norwegian merchant fleet was able to follow the government-in-exile. The Norwegian Merchant fleet played a major role for the Allies and provided needed revenue to the Norwegian government-in-exile.

At the time of this courageous escape, King Haakon was 68 years old.

The story of the decision to oppose the Germans and escape is told in the movie *The King's Choice*, described in the April 2017 issue of the *Viking*.

At our Lodge meeting on April 9, the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German Invasion, Inger Thoen will tell us about her experiences of growing up in Norway during the German Occupation.

Curtis A. Cleveland, Lodge President

## Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting

The Board of Directors meets Tuesday, April 25 at the Earnie Best residence at 7 p.m.

## Masse Moro - the District 5 Norwegian Heritage Camp to be held July 16-29

Masse Moro is a Norwegian Heritage camp run by Sons of Norway District 5 in West/central Wisconsin. The camp originated in 1979 with a specific focus on sharing the history, arts and rich culture of Norway with our youth. Norwegian language is one of the key components to the program. Campers leave their American culture behind for two weeks and participate in daily activities in a hands-on atmosphere learning camp songs, Norwegian vocabulary classes, team sports, and a variety of traditional Norwegian arts, cuisine and Norwegian history.

To learn more about District 5 Masse Moro Heritage camp, or to print application and scholarship forms, visit their website at [www.massemoro.org](http://www.massemoro.org).

**Scholarships and Grants --** In District 5, we are fortunate that both the lodges and the District provide a matching grant of \$150 to participants. Here is how it works: After completing the camper application forms, Askeladden members apply to the lodge for a grant of \$150 for their children or grandchildren attending Masse Moro by filling out the top half of a simple one-page form. Once the lodge approves the grant, the lodge completes the remaining fields on the form and it is sent with the \$150 check from the lodge to District 5, where the grant is automatically matched for \$150 at the District level. Thus the first \$300 of the \$800 camp fee is covered, making the camp experience much more affordable for the families. Submit your completed matching grant application form to Lodge Treasurer Earnie Best as soon as possible.

Other scholarships are also available for Masse Moro, bringing the cost down even further.

**Masse Moro First-Year Camper Scholarship --** this scholarship was created in 2011, and all first-year (have never attended Masse Moro before) campers are eligible for this scholarship, regardless of Sons of Norway affiliation, age, or gender. Scholarships will be given by random selection. To apply, fill out the application and submit by email or postal mail to the District Five Youth Director. (A camper application must accompany this application, unless you have already submitted an application for this year's camp session.) Awards of \$50.00 each will be made to as many first-year campers as there are funds available.

**Sarah L. Paulsen Memorial Scholarships --** This year three \$175 scholarships will be awarded in memory of Sarah Paulsen. The scholarship is open to any child age 9-15, who is the child or grandchild of a Sons of Norway member, belonging to a District 5 Lodge. Application materials **must be postmarked by April 15**. The applicant will write an essay of no more than 500 words on the topic of "Why I believe it is important to know about our heritage" or "Why I want to attend Norwegian Heritage Camp" and include two letters of reference.

Finally, District 5 has funds set aside for additional assistance for all campers. Applications for those are found on the District 5 website and must be received by May 17.

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Only in Norway: Norway's Easter Thrillers

Easter celebrations in Norway bring to mind visions of springtime ski excursions to mountain cabins, colorful decorations and time spent with friends and family. However, none of these Norwegian traditions are as unfamiliar and unusual to North Americans as the Norwegian Easter tradition of Påskekrim. Literally translated as “Easter crime,” this phenomenon grips Norway each spring and fills bookstores with dark tales of murder and kidnapping and Norwegian TV and radio programming with popular crime series.

While it is uncertain exactly how Påskekrim has evolved and grown to become the Norwegian phenomenon it is today, it is believed to have started with a pair of students from Bergen who in the spring of 1923 published a crime novel titled, *Bergenstoget plyndret i natt* (“Bergen Train Robbed Tonight”). The students, Nordahl Grieg and Nils Lie, wrote the novel under the pseudonym “Jonathan Jerv” and purchased advertisements in *Aftenposten* and other Oslo newspapers to promote their book. The advertisement, cleverly masquerading as an article headline in big, bold letters just beneath the paper’s masthead, featured the novel’s title “BERGEN TRAIN ROBBED TONIGHT” and caused a sensation among readers who believed it to be a real headline. Readers—concerned for the welfare of passengers on the train—had missed the tiny text nearby (Pris 2 kroner, Gyldendal) denoting the price and publisher of the novel. The ingenious marketing stunt created such a buzz in Norway that the novel became a huge success and later was turned into a film in 1928. Publishers soon caught on to the novel’s Easter-time sales success and Påskekrim became an annual tradition.

While Scandinavian crime writers are enjoying tremendous popularity worldwide as of late, efforts by publishers to replicate Påskekrim in Sweden have been unsuccessful and Easter crime remains an unparalleled Norwegian phenomenon.

To learn more about Norway’s popular crime writers or to find titles, log in to the digital edition of *Viking* magazine and check out these issues:

### Nordic Noir

<http://msp.imirus.com/Mpowered/book/vvk14/i4/p38>

### Murder She Wrote

<http://msp.imirus.com/Mpowered/book/vvk15/i7/p38>

### Read On

<http://msp.imirus.com/Mpowered/book/vvk16/i7/p24>

### Summer Reading Guide

<http://msp.imirus.com/Mpowered/book/vvk15/i7/p18>

### The Golden Touch

<http://msp.imirus.com/Mpowered/book/vvk13/i3/p16>

## St. Patrick's Day Parade

A huge **Thank You** goes out to all who assisted with our parade entry this year. It was bitter cold, but it was still fun! It’s always fun when there’s a giant Norwegian Troll in your midst. Once again, our lodge was mentioned in an MLive article covering the parade, along with a picture of one of Holly’s Viking boats. Did you happen to see it? We will post some pictures on our website soon.



## March Meeting Recap

*Curtis A. Cleveland, Cultural Committee Chair*

At the March Meeting, members watched a video on the *Moorhead Stave Church*. This replica of the Hopperstad Stave Church of Vik, Norway, was built in 1998 in Moorhead, Minnesota, largely the work of Guy Paulson, a retired lab scientist at North Dakota State University in Fargo. The Moorhead Stave Church is located next to the museum building that houses the Hjemkomst Viking Ship.

Prior to the cultural program, Ashli led the singing of the national anthems, sung a cappella.

The business session was devoted to routine reports and announcements, no new business items.

We enjoyed a fine meal with pork roast, rotisserie chicken, homemade applesauce and many other tasty dishes. Ashli, who was in charge of set-up duties, led the singing of the “Norwegian Table Prayer.”

Twelve members and one guest attended the meeting. Thanks to all who attended and participated.

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



*www.sonsofnorway.com*

## APRIL KALENDER

- april 9 - **Askeladden Lodge Program/meeting/potluck dinner**  
4:00 p.m. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
- april 9 - *Palmesøndag* - Palm Sunday
- april 14 - *Langfredag* - Good Friday
-  april 16 - *Påskedag* - Easter Sunday
- april 30 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles

**Gratulerer med dagen!**  
*Fødselsdag Hilsener*  
**April Birthdays**

Lyra Fugett	Nathan Gunnar Varga
Jamie Lynn Stafne	Roger Drong
Dennis Darling	Leif H. Selden
	Nicholas Carter

**Note: Important May meeting information**

Beginning with our **May** 2017 meeting, note that our meeting start time changes to 2 pm. We hope to make our meetings more accessible to all members, including families with children.

**Askeladden Lodge Library**

[www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway)

Contact Roger Drong with questions or to reserve resources.



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.