



the ASKELADDEN news

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

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

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April 2019

4-19

Meetings:

Sept - April: 2nd Sundays, 2 p.m.

May only: 3rd Sunday, 2 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Kalamazoo, MI

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The King's Choice

2 p.m. Sunday, April 14
Trinity Lutheran Church

This month marks the 79th anniversary of the German invasion of Norway, which occurred on April 9, 1940. At our monthly meeting we will relive the earliest days of the German Occupation of Norway.

We will watch an excerpt of the 2016 movie (DVD), *The King's Choice*. The movie covers the first three days of the German invasion, during which time the Norwegian Parliament - with the advice of the King - must choose between recognition of the German Occupation as the legitimate government of Norway or refuse recognition and thereby declare resistance to the German Occupation. This story is about the King and the advice he gives to Parliament.

Our gathering begins at 2 p.m. with a shared meal. Please bring a dish (hot or cold) to pass. Tableware and beverages are provided. The movie will begin at 3 p.m., followed by a short business meeting.

All events will be in the Fellowship Hall, in the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 South Westnedge Ave, downtown Kalamazoo. The meal and cultural program (movie) are open to the public. Please bring a friend.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Recap of March Lodge Meeting

Curtis Cleveland, Cultural Director

Members enjoyed a very informative slide presentation on the Norwegian sculptor Gustav Vigeland (1869 - 1943) at the March Lodge meeting. Roger Drong prepared and presented the cultural program, which featured the sculptures and paintings of the artist during the period which preceded his creation of Vigeland Park in the early 1920's.

At a future meeting, Roger will give a program on the famous Vigeland Park in Oslo, one of the most popular man-made attractions in Norway.

Members enjoyed a smorgasbord meal which included lefse as well as fastelavnsboller - thank you, Jean Willinger and Holly Jensen! Teri Koretsky was in charge of the set-up. During the business meeting, Lodge president Curt Osborn and others made important announcements.

Curtis sold some District 5 books *The First Norwegian Settlements in America*, a fundraiser for the foundation that supports Masse Moro as well as District 5 scholarships.

Sons of Norway District 5 Event in Michigan

Curtis Cleveland, Cultural Director

Four members of Askeladden Lodge, Curt Osborn, Joan O'Bryan, Betsy Fish, and I, attended the District 5 Michigan event on Friday, April 5 in Allen Park.

The event, which lasted four hours, consisted of an ice-breaker activity, a dinner buffet, a seminar, and entertainment. The event was organized and run by the District 5 leaders, President Andy Johnsen, Secretary Darlene Arneson, and Treasurer Mike Palecek. I thought the event was run very well. It was nice to reconnect with members I had met in the past. It was nice to meet new people.

About 40 people attended the event. With the exception of the Pontiac Lodge, all the lower Michigan Lodges were represented at the event. One person from Circle City Lodge in Indianapolis also attended.

Welcome New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest lodge members: Esther Ann Brown, Judy Hande-Skutnick, and Daniel and Abigail Renoos!

Robin Fossum, of Chetek, Wisconsin, who is the President of Dovre Lodge in northern Wisconsin as well as the SON International Director District 5, provided the formal entertainment. She performed a concert playing the Hardanger fiddle and the violin while she presented some fascinating facts on both instruments.

Robin was in the same music class as Karin Code at the University of Illinois.



Masse Moro Heritage Camp July 14-27: District 5 Matching Grants

Masse Moro is a 2-week Norwegian Heritage children's camp run by Sons of Norway District 5 near Eau Claire, Wisconsin for children ages 9-15.

In District 5, we are fortunate that both the lodges and the District provide a matching grant of \$150 to campers. Here is how it works: After completing the camper application forms, Askeladden members apply to our lodge for a Supporting Grant of \$150 for their children or grandchildren attending Masse Moro by filling out the top half of a simple one-page form. After approving the grant, the lodge completes the remaining fields on the form and sends it with a \$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 directly to Lodge Treasurer Earnie Best as soon as possible. It's not too late to apply for a match for the 2019 camp session.

Other scholarships are also available for Masse Moro. Visit the District 5 web page for complete information on these scholarships as well as all application forms: http://sonsofnorway5.com/programs/masse_moro_heritage_camp.php

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

2019 American Birkebeiner

Lodge member Dan Renoos, who has skied in the American Birkebeiner in the past, traveled with his family to Wisconsin in February to watch the epic race. They were among the nearly 40,000 spectators and skiers that flock annually to the small town of Hayward for the huge event. The American Birkebeiner is the largest cross-country ski race in North America. Dan shared some of his photos with us.



The American Birkebeiner International Bridge, which was created in 2015, is assembled every year for the Race in Hayward, Wisconsin. In 2018, it was transported to Minneapolis for a 10-day stay for the Super Bowl activities.



The bridge is covered with twelve dump truck loads of snow. It allows the skiers to cross Highway 63 to the snow-covered Main Street in Hayward, and onto the race's finish line.



The race to the finish line!

Askeladden Vikings at the St. Patrick's Day Parade

Joan Renaas O'Bryan

We had a great turnout for our parade entry this year. Unfortunately the wind kicked up right before the parade, preventing us from donning our iconic Askeladden Viking long boats. But our group still provided plenty to please the crowd, including Brett Jensen as our infamous Askeladden Troll.



Five members of the Renoos clan from Askeladden Lodge.

New to our parade group this year was 18-month-old Abigail Renoos, our littlest Viking, who coincidentally is also our lodge's newest Heritage member. Abigail was accompanied by her father, Daniel Renoos, who recently rejoined our lodge and her cousin, Audrey Renoos who joined the lodge in December. Long-time lodge member Luke O'Bryan also joined us for the first time, with his adorable Boston Terrier, whose bright red boots were quite a novelty for the kids along the route. Chuck Nelson from Vasa, who has helped us in many Kalamazoo parades over the years, joined us. Rounding out the line-up were President Curt Osborn, former President Curtis Cleveland and me. Helpers behind the scene included Holly and Rick Jensen as well as Jim Weesies. Many thanks to all who participated this year. We had lots of fun!



The 2019 female and male Birkebeiner winners.





SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

5749 Stadium Drive # 245
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

APRIL KALENDER

- april 14 - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting**
2 p.m. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
- april 14 - *Palmesøndag* - Palm Sunday
- april 19 - *Langfredag* - Good Friday
- april 21 - *Påskedag* - Easter Sunday
- mai 3 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles



Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Roger Drong with questions or to reserve resources.

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

April Birthdays

Lyra Fugett	Nathan Gunnar Varga
Jamie Lynn Stafne	Roger Drong
Dennis Darling	Leif H. Selden
Helen Spence	Anna Christianson



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.