



the ASKELADDEN news

Sons of Norway • Askeladden Lodge 5-610 • Kalamazoo, Michigan
A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway
facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

January 2020

01-20

Sunday, January 12
2 p.m.

Scandinavian Travelogue

Presented by Teri Koretsky
Trinity Lutheran Church

The Askeladden Lodge January program and meeting will begin at 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S Westnedge Avenue, downtown Kalamazoo, with a pot-luck buffet in Fellowship Hall in the basement. **Please bring a dish, hot or cold, to share** with other members and guests. Coffee and water will be available. Table service will be provided.

Following our meal and fellowship with guests and Vasa Satellite Lodge members, you are invited to share a travelogue slide show of Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway that Teri Koretsky visited last year. Teri's program is expected to begin about 3 p.m. In October 2018, Teri won the drawing for the Norway trip.

Following the program, at 4 p.m., Askeladden members are encouraged to attend a brief business meeting where our 2020 officers and directors will be installed. The 2020 officers and directors are listed in the newsletter.

This is a joint meeting with the Swedish-American Vasa Lodge. The public is invited to both the meal and the cultural program.

Start the new year correctly by attending the first lodge meeting of the year and if possible, bring a friend. Share our Facebook event with them so they have all the details.

There will be a short meeting of the new Board of Directors following the business meeting to discuss program plans for 2020 and a couple of other items.

Meetings:

Sept - April: 2nd Sundays, 2 p.m.
May only: 3rd Sunday, 2 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
504 S. Westnedge Ave
Kalamazoo, MI

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ASKELADDEN NEWS

Askeladden Lodge 2020 scholarships

Joyce Hare, Scholarship Chairperson

If you have children or grandchildren starting college next year or continuing as an undergraduate student, they can be considered for a scholarship awarded by Askeladden Lodge. The 2020 budget allows for up to three \$1,000 scholarships.

Applications and required documents for the 2020 Askeladden Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarships are due to Joyce Hare by March 15, 2020. The online application form and guidelines will be available soon and hard copies can be picked up at the January meeting.

Please contact Joyce Hare at (269) 327-5824 with any inquiries.

Being awarded a Lodge scholarship one year neither precludes a student from winning or guarantees that student will win it in subsequent years.

The application process is not complicated, but it does require a little planning to gather the required information, such as letters of recommendation and transcripts, so begin the process today, including to make sure your Sons of Norway dues are up to date.

Recap of the December Lodge meeting

Curtis Cleveland, Cultural Director

The December lodge meeting began with the procession of eight children - all donned in white - down the center aisle of Trinity Lutheran Church: the beginning of the Sankta Lucia Festival. The eight children included Kaitlyn Albertson from Trinity Lutheran Church as Lucia as well as two Askeladden Heritage members: River Reich as an attendant and James Kraatz as one of the Star Boys.

During the 50-minute pageant, the children shared the limelight with two local musicians, mezzo-soprano Laura Betinis Healy and pianist Anthony Healy, who performed several songs, including some composed by Laura's sister, Abbie Betinis, and some by her great-uncle Alfred Burt.

The Sankta Lucia Festival was organized by Holly Jensen and Chuck Nelson, co-cultural directors for Vasa, with assistance provided by Vasa member Kim Tilma.

After the pageant, members and guests headed downstairs to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation. Joyce Hare was in charge of the buffet table which had an abundance of food and beverage, including lefse, tasty gløgg, Danish cookies and other tasty desserts.

Father Christmas made an appearance and distributed gifts from the Christmas tree to the delight of all the children in attendance.

This was a joint meeting of the Swedish-American Vasa Lodge and the Sons of Norway Askeladden Lodge. The public was invited to this event. About 80 persons enjoyed the beautiful event.

The following members attended the meeting: Earnie Best, Curtis Cleveland, Dennis and Jean Darling, Gail Hadley, Judy Hande-Skutnik, Joyce Hare, Holly Jensen, Teri Koretsky, James Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, River Reich, and Inger Thoen. The following people signed in as guests: Laura Betinis Healy, Anthony Healy, Jungeun Best, Jennifer Greenman, Sharon Greenman, Edith Wright, Theodore Wright, Emily Greenman Wright and John Santas.

At the December 14 meeting, there was no lodge business session and there was no Board of Directors meeting.

Welcome to Askeladden!

Askeladden Lodge extends a warm welcome to our newest member Dr. John Riggs from Dowagiac. John is not a stranger to Sons of Norway, having been associated with two lodges in California previously. Welcome to Sons of Norway and to our lodge, John!

Greetings of Gratitude

Curtis Cleveland, Cultural Director

Recently I received thank you cards from Bertha Boettcher and District 5 Treasurer Mike Palecek for the gifts that they received from the lodge.

Bertha Boettcher, a Charter Member and the first pianist for the lodge, acknowledged the photo book of the 30th Anniversary.

Bertha wrote the following:

I was overwhelmed at receiving a copy of the 30th Anniversary Book ... so well done!

Please thank the Sons of Norway Lodge for the gift. However, there was one wording that caused me to chuckle. 'Greta Decker and her mother, Bertha Boettcher' etc Greta Decker is a dear friend who acted as chauffeur to the Fetzer Building.

Many Thanks again for the gift, it is treasured. Please convey my thanks to Karen Kunze for her kindness.

Merry Christmas, Curtis!

Sincerely, Bertha Boettcher

Mike Palecek, the District 5 Treasurer, acknowledged our \$100 Memorial gift in memory of Roger Drong to the Masse Moro youth camp.

Mike wrote the following:

Tusen Takk to Askeladden lodge for the Memorial to Masse Moro to remember Roger Drong. I listened to his interview on archives.storycorps.org and got the sense that he was a very down to earth person who was very thoughtful to others. At the same time, he was a very smart man.

In listening to his interview, he said one of his concerns for youth today is related to global warning. One of the learning programs that all the Masse Moro campers go through is Beaver Creek Reserve's Nature Studies. Since this is a related area to Roger's interests, we will apply his memorial to help pay for this program in 2020.

In Roger's interview, he talked a lot about the beauty of nature, especially in the Scandinavian countries. He said that 'the outdoors makes a big difference... I like pine trees & birches.' Roger would have enjoyed Masse Moro very much.

Curtis, tusen takk to Askeladden for your lodge's ongoing support of the Nordic heritage activities of District 5 and its Nordic Legacy Foundation.

Your friend in the Sons of Norway, Mike

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

2019 Membership goals met

For the second year in a row, Askeladden Lodge met its annual recruitment goals for new members as set by Sons of Norway International.

Want to tell someone how they can sign up for Sons of Norway online? Give them this simple address, which gives potential members plenty of useful information:
join.sofn.com

To renew or add a Family Member use this address:
www.sofn.com/join_or_renew

If you are referring someone, be sure to give them your Member Number so they can include it in their application and then you will receive a membership pin for recruiting them. Also, let potential new members know that they can get the local dues portion of their dues rebated back from our lodge by request.

Annual Detroit-area Lutefisk Lunch

Curtis Cleveland, Cultural Director

On Saturday, December 7th, I attended the “Nordic Fellows Lutefisk Lunch” at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills. The lunch, which started at noon and cost \$30, is an annual event of the Norwegian Club of Detroit. I found out about this event from Dennis Flessman on Facebook. I attended the same event five years ago. Besides Dennis, Gene Steensma of the Pontiac lodge (Samhold) was the only other person I knew at the event.

There were about 50 persons, all men, at this event. Five years ago, there were about 75 persons who attended the event.

After Dennis welcomed everyone to the event, we ate the meal consisting of lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, boiled potatoes, peas, carrots and rye bread. Needless to say, there was plenty of melted butter on the table to make the lutefisk palatable. Besides water and coffee, Aquavit was served.

After the meal, everyone introduced himself and announced how they were related to Norway. Several of them had ancestors who settled in North Dakota, just like my paternal grandparents. For those willing, the members were permitted to tell a joke. I passed. As a whole, the members were not good joke tellers. For one thing, the jokes were too long. Compared to five years ago, when the Ole and Lena jokes were common, this year the jokes were more crude.

There was one member in the group who was African-American. After a polite reminder to the group that his ancestors were “imported” and not “immigrated” to America, he declared that the human race started in Eastern Africa. Therefore, he said that he was happy to greet his fellow descendants of Africa.

One guest, attending for the first time and eating lutefisk for the first time announced that “The lutefisk was not as bad as what he was expecting.” Dennis replied, “That is a compliment.”

Group singing followed. We sang “Hale on Gore,” a drinking song and “Oh Lutefisk, Oh Lutefisk,” sung to the tune of “Oh Tannenbaum.”

After the lunch I shopped at the nearby Ikea store in Canton.

2020 Askeladden Officers

Board of Directors

President - Gail Thompson-Hadley
Vice President - Joan O’Bryan
Membership Secretary - Judy Hande-Skutnick
Secretary - vacant
Treasurer - Curtis Cleveland
Cultural Director - Holly Jensen

Officers

Social Director - Esther Ann Brown
Sports and Recreation Director - Curt Osborn
Youth Director - Karen Morey
Librarian - Curtis Cleveland
Newsletter Editor - Joan O’Bryan
Newsletter Publisher - vacant
Historian - Curtis Cleveland
Sons of Norway Foundation Director - Curt Osborn
Sunshine Coordinator - Arden Hetletvedt
Publicity Director - vacant
Tubfrim Coordinator - Holly Jensen
Counselor - Elizabeth Kratz
Musician - Margery Selden
Language Instructors - Margery Selden, Inger Thoen
Adopt a School Coordinator - vacant
Volunteer Coordinator - vacant
Webmaster - vacant

Committees

Membership - Joan O’Bryan, Chair
Finance - Curtis Cleveland, Chair
Scholarship - Joyce Hare, Chair
Cultural - Holly Jensen
Social - Esther Ann Brown, Chair
Norway Trip -
Publicity -
Nominating - TBD






SONS of NORWAY

Celebrating **125** Years

Askeladden Lodge
507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

JANUAR KALENDER

-  • Januar 1 - Nyttårsdag - New Year's Day
- Januar 6 - Helligtrekongersdag - Epiphany
- **Januar 12** - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting**
2 p.m. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI
- Januar 16 - Sønner av Norge - Sons of Norway founded, 1895 - 125th Anniversary
-  • Januar 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
-  • Januar 21 - H.R.H. Princess Ingrid Alexandra 2004
- Januar 30 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles.

January Board Meeting

The first Board of Directors meeting of the year will be held Sunday, January 12, at Trinity Lutheran Church, immediately following our monthly Lodge meeting to discuss program plans for 2020. Interested Lodge members are welcome to attend.

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

January Birthdays

Brett Jensen	Scott Erickson
James Bensen	Magnus Selden
Aric Nesbitt	Anthony Morey



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.