



the ASKELADDEN news

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

November 2023

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

11-23

www.norwayinkalamazoo.com

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Meetings:

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

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

Trinity Lutheran Church

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(269) 350-3330

Sunday, November 12 (Farsdag i Norge)

2 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church

Norway Travelogue

by Kris Spence and Karn Erlandson

Norway trip drawing winner Kris Spence and his wife Karn Erlandson will present on their August 2023 trip to Oslo and Stavanger with their daughter Helen. They will focus on 1) the “kreativ inspirasjon” of art and architecture, 2) “friluftsliv” including the natural beauty of Lysefjord, and 3) food and family. Art and architectural highlights include tourist favorites (Oslo Opera House and the sculpture-packed Frogner Park) as well as lesser known delights (Deichman Bjørvika Library and the street art of Oslo’s Vulkan neighborhood). The “friluftsliv” pinnacle of the trip was a hike to the famous Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock) suspended over Lysefjord, but even the parking lots in the Lauvik countryside offered scenic vistas. On the food and family front, Kris, Karn and Helen enjoyed traditional Scandinavian spreads (meatballs not included) as well as international surprises. Thank you, Askeladden Lodge, for helping make a fantastic trip possible!



Please bring a dish to pass, as our event begins with a shared meal. Coffee, water and table service will be provided. Please bring Food Drive items and/or contributions as noted on page 2. The entrance is in the back of the church.

Giant Holiday Card

Kris Spence, Publicity Director

For the first time, our lodge will display an 8-foot tall holiday season card at the Holiday Card and Tree Walk located at Portage’s Celery Flats Historical Area (7328 Garden Lane). The painted wooden card, featuring a nisse and a Viking longship, will be on display from late-November to January 7. Be sure to go check it out.

Holiday Parade

Kris Spence, Holiday Parade Coordinator

The Maple Hill Holiday Parade happens on Saturday, November 18. We are excited for this opportunity to showcase our Lodge’s spirit. Volunteers who have signed up will gather by 10 a.m. in the staging area. All volunteers must walk in costume in a unified theme (we provide the costumes). If you haven’t already, reach out as soon as you can to Kris Spence at kspence7134@yahoo.com to commit to participating.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Foundation Scholarships

Curtis Cleveland, Foundation Director

Effective October 1, 2023, lodge members, as well as the children and the grandchildren of lodge members, may apply for the many scholarships (14 in all) offered by the Sons of Norway Foundation.

The Foundation scholarships range from \$1,500 to \$5,000. Approximately 25 scholarships are awarded annually.

The guidelines and applications are found online, visit sofn.com

The deadline for submitting applications to study in Norway is January 15. The applications for domestic school scholarships must be completed by February 15.

If you have questions, please call me or Amy Tuchenhausen, the Director of Sons of Norway Foundation, (612) 827-3611.

Sons of Norway Foundation

Curtis Cleveland, Foundation Director

The members who attended the October lodge meeting responded very generously to our request for donations to the Sons of Norway Foundations.

Individual lodge members donated \$105 to the Sons of Norway Foundation. This amount was added to the \$100 donation from the Askeladden Lodge for a total gift of \$205 to the Foundation.

Annually, the International Sons of Norway designates the month of October as Sons of Norway Foundation Month. The Sons of Norway Foundation, organized in 1966, is the charitable arm of the Sons of Norway. Its mission is to provide grants and scholarships to lodges and individuals. In 2022, it awarded \$133,000 in scholarships and \$76,000 in grants.

Support for the needy

Curtis Cleveland, Treasurer

Askeladden Lodge continues to remember and support the needy in our community. This year the lodge gave gifts of \$125 each to Ministry with Community and to the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. Both of these organizations support homeless and low-income persons in the our area.

Askeladden Lodge began supporting these two groups about 15 years ago, when Louise Adams was the lodge treasurer. She advocated that the lodge should use a small portion of its large investment fund to support the less fortunate.

Both organizations have sent nice thank-you letters to our lodge for the gifts. Pastor Michael Brown, CEO of the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries, wrote: "Your donation provides a warm place to sleep, one meal a day, the much-needed support for our homeless neighbors and a helping hand to those in need."

October Fish Boil with Vasa

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Acting Membership Secretary

Fifteen Askeladden members joined the Swedes of Vasa Satellite Lodge on the first of October for an enjoyable traditional fish boil with white fish, potatoes, onions, cole slaw and cherry pie. Members gathered outdoors on an extremely sunny day and watched Ted Ruser toss kerosene on the fire three times.



Vasa has perfected the art of the Fish Boil

Following our meal, we gathered for a business meeting. The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for 2024. Foundation Director Curtis Cleveland gave a brief presentation on the Sons of Norway Foundation. We learned about upcoming programs, including the

December Lucia Fest, and the Holiday Parade. Our annual Norway Trip winner was drawn. We are so excited to announce that Diane Andert is our latest Norway Trip winner!

October 2023 event Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Esther Ann Brown, Curtis Cleveland, Kaaren DeWitt, Kerry DeWitt, Karn Erlandson, Janet Hampson, Karen Hare, Elizabeth Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Sandra Santas, Kris Spence, Gail Thompson-Hadley, Astrid Willis

Contact Joan O'Bryan with attendance corrections.

November Food Drive scheduled

Curtis Cleveland, Treasurer

At the November lodge meeting, we will have a Food Drive and a Food Bank Campaign.

This is an Askeladden Lodge tradition that began several years ago. Twice a year, first at Syttende Mai and then at Thanksgiving/Christmas, we ask members to bring non-perishable food which will be given to the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes agency and also to make a monetary donation to one of the food banks that serve our communities.

For the Food Drive, please bring a grocery bag of non-perishable food to our November meeting, which will be delivered to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

For the Food Bank Campaign, donations will be collected at our November meeting for the following three agencies that serve our area:

South Michigan Food Bank, located in Battle Creek, serving Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and 6 other counties;

Feeding America: West Michigan, located in Grand Rapids, serving Van Buren, Cass, Allegan, and 37 other counties;

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

Please write a personal check indicating which agency should receive your donations. Alternatively, you may place cash in an envelope with the name of the agency written on the envelope.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Norway travel, language & December celebrations

Please join us on Sunday, November 12, at 2 p.m. as we gather in fellowship hall of Trinity Lutheran Church for a potluck meal and social time followed by a virtual trip to Norway with Karn Erlandson, Kris Spence and their daughter, Helen. We look forward to learning about their adventures in Norway and connections with their Norwegian family.

We will have a short business meeting after our meal and Norway trip program to elect our officers and other leaders for various lodge positions. We will also consider our budget for 2024.

Our Norwegian Language class will meet again at the Marshall District Library on Wednesday morning, November 15, from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. With the upcoming holidays in December, our teacher, Astrid Willis, has promised to help us learn some of the appropriate holiday Norwegian words and phrases. Our language group won't meet in December but will be back together again in January for more of our Norwegian language learning and practice.

Please mark your calendars now to save Sunday, December 10, at 2 p.m. for our joint holiday celebration with the local Swedish Vasa lodge members and friends for the Santa Lucia festival of lights and Jul celebration. Please contact Holly Jensen if you have young children who would like to participate in the Santa Lucia fest. More details will follow in our December newsletter.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Sign up now for Lucia and Star Boys

Holly Jensen

A joint celebration of Santa Lucia Day Sunday, December 10, at 2 p.m. in the Trinity Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall, is planned by Askeladden Lodge and the Vasa Satellite Lodge.

Please join our celebration of Santa Lucia - Kalamazoo style - with traditional songs, costumes, food, drink and a visit from Father Christmas. In Sweden this involves young adults and teens in the celebration but in Norway, it is mainly an event for (young) children, organized in lower elementary schools and kindergarten.

If you have a willing child, grandchild or neighbor, we have the costume and (electric) candles! Please text or call Holly Jensen (269) 598-5523 by the first week in December.

Member Spotlight

Happy 90th Birthday to Inger Thoen!

Today we celebrate Inger Thoen, Charter and Golden Member of Askeladden Lodge, who turns 90 this month. This photo was taken at one of the well-received presentations Inger gave to our lodge about her experiences as a child in Norway during the German occupation of WWII. In 1998, Inger wrote about her personal childhood experiences growing up in occupied Norway for the District 5 Collection *Remembrances of WWII in Norway*. While several Askeladden lodge members had pieces in that publication, Inger's stirring piece was the only one later selected for the anthology *Hidden Heroes: World War II in Norway*, a softcover book published by Sons of Norway District 5. Inger has been an active member of our lodge since the earliest days, when she played a key



part in bringing our lodge together. Among her many roles in our lodge have been Treasurer, Language Instructor and expert lefse maker! Inger is a wonderful source of Norwegian and Saami knowledge, but we mostly just know her as a wonderful and joyful human being. Best wishes on your milestone birthday, Inger.



Clockwise from top left: 1) It was an extremely hot and sunny day for Vasa's Oct 1st Fish Boil. Ted Ruser explained the science behind the flames to the crowd, who were gathered in the shade, cameras ready, anticipating the explosion of flames. 2) Ted and his son, Lars, carefully loaded the fish, potatoes, and onions into the water and precisely timed the cooking of each. 3) Ted expertly tossed the kerosene into the fire three separate times and then 4) Dave Olson and Ted carefully removed the food.

Norwegian Calendar signup

Inger Thoen

If you didn't get a chance in October to sign up to purchase a 2024 calendar at a significant discount, the signup sheet will be back at our November meeting. Both Splendor of Norway and the Viking Verse (Rosemale) calendars are available. If you can't make the November meeting, but still want to order a calendar, contact either Inger Thoen or Joan O'Bryan by November 12. Calendars will be available for pickup at our December 10 event. Delivery is also available (for local folks only.)



SONS of NORWAY

November
2023

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

NOVEMBER KALENDER

- november 1 - Allehelgensdag - All Saints Day
- november 5 - Daylight Saving Time ends
- november 7 - Election Day
-  • november 11 - Veterans Day - Remembrance Day (Canada)
- november 12 - Farsdag i Norge - Father's Day in Norway
- **november 12** - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting with potluck dinner and Program - 2 p.m.**
Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S Westnedge
- **november 15** - **Norwegian Language Class, Marshall District Library, 124 W. Green St.**
Also broadcast via Zoom 10:30 a.m.
- november 18 - Holiday Parade - Askeladden assembles at 10 a.m.
-  • november 23 - Thanksgiving Day
- december 1 - last day to submit articles for *Askeladden News*

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

November Birthdays

Inger Thoen
Judy Hande-Skutnick
John Thingstad
Christine Hadley
Yasmin Aimee Lilly
Vanier Lander
Willeen Platt
Jon Platt
Kamel Spencer Lilly



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.