



the ASKELADDEN news

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

December 2023

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

12-23

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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Joint event with Vasa

2 p.m. Sunday, December 10

Sankta Lucia Festival

Trinity Lutheran Church

On the thirteenth of December, when the darkness of the year is growing ever longer, the Jul celebration of light is most welcome. Towns throughout Scandinavia (and America) hold Lucia festivals filled with music and candlelight. The main attraction is always the Lucia procession, featuring a girl clad in a long white gown with a red sash and wearing an evergreen crown of candles. Lucia Day reminds us of light and generosity, even in the darkness of midwinter.

Please join our celebration of Sankta Lucia - Kalamazoo style with traditional music, costumes, food and drink with a visit from Father Christmas, and why do the Swedes build a 42 foot-tall straw Yule Goat?

Members are encouraged to bring Christmas finger foods (cookies, cakes, fruit, breads or rolls) to share. Norwegian foods (lefse, Julekake, Kransekake, Kringle, and Rosettes) are appreciated. Also bring a friend (or more) to our Lodges' celebration of light. Beverages (coffee, water and gløgg) are provided.

The church's newly renovated rear entrance has a convenient elevator.

God Jul!



Askeladden debuts giant holiday card

Kris Spence, Publicity Director

An 8-foot tall holiday card from Askeladden Lodge is now on display in Celery Flats Historical Park in Portage. The card is one of many along the Holiday Card and Tree Walk.

A special **thank you** to Jeff Andert for using his truck to transport the card.

Celery Flats Historical Park

7328 Garden Ln, Portage, MI 49002

GKSA's annual "Holiday Ice Revue"

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

The Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association presents the Holiday Ice Revue every December. The Revue showcases the talents of the GKSA's competitive skaters, as well as young people just learning to skate.

This year's Revue will be December 16 at Wings Event Center (3600 Vanrick Drive, Kalamazoo) with two show times at 2:30 and 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Come watch the figure skaters sponsored by Askeladden Lodge!

ASKELADDEN NEWS

Joyce Hare honored for service

Curtis Cleveland

Joyce Hare was honored at the November meeting for her distinguished service to the lodge during the past 34 years.

In June of this year, the Board of Directors approved a motion to award the Distinguished Service Award of Askeladden Lodge to Joyce.



President Gail Thompson-Hadley, Joyce Hare, and Curtis Cleveland

At the November meeting, Joyce was given a certificate announcing the award, along with a gift card and flowers. The certificate read: "Askeladden Lodge extends SPECIAL RECOGNITION to Joyce M. Hare for her 34 years of dedicated service to the Sons of Norway - Askeladden Lodge serving as President, Treasurer, and Chair of Scholarship & Finance Committees."

In past years the lodge has honored two other individuals with the Distinguished Service Award of Askeladden Lodge. Margery Selden was honored in 2008. In 2014, Karen Kunze was honored.

Joyce, accepting the award, thanked the lodge members for the recognition.

Lodge conducts successful Food Drive

Curtis Cleveland

At our November lodge meeting, members conducted a successful Food Drive and Food Bank Campaign.

Members, as requested, donated 47 items of non-perishable food (60 pounds) which was given to the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

In addition, members contributed \$300 to be distributed to the food banks that serve southwest Michigan. The money was distributed as follows:

- \$125 for South Michigan Food Bank
- \$155 was given to the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes
- \$20 was given to Feeding America: West Michigan

If you were unable to attend the November meeting, please consider making a monetary donation to the food bank that serves your community. "This is the Christmas season: remember the needy."

Our next food drive and food bank campaign will be at the Syttende Mai Celebration, Sunday, May 19, 2024.

November meeting: Norway Travelogue

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Acting Membership Secretary

We enjoyed a nice shared meal and a wonderful program by Kris Spence and Karn Erlandson on their recent trip to Norway. Joyce Hare was honored and Lodge President pins were given to Gail, and past presidents Joyce, Curtis, and also to Jean Darling in honor of Dennis' service as Lodge President. We met scholarship recipient Charles Hetletvedt. We elected the 2024 slate of officers at our business meeting.

November 2023 meeting Askeladden Member attendance: Richard Adams, Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Jean Darling, Kaaren DeWitt, Karn Erlandson, Joyce Hare, Karen Hare, Arden Hetletvedt, Holly Jensen, Teri Koretsky, Joan O'Bryan, Kris Spence, Robert Swanson, Gail Thompson-Hadley

Guests: Charles Hetletvedt, Ruth Hetletvedt

Contact Joan O'Bryan with attendance corrections.

Askeladden appears in Holiday Parade

Kris Spence, Publicity Director

Sidewalks packed with spectators, clear blue skies, and an unusually pleasant outside temperature set the stage for the 61st annual Maple Hill Kalamazoo Holiday Parade on November 18. Askeladden Lodge was represented by nine marchers dressed up to ring in the start of the holiday season. Father Christmas, our Troll, Norwegians in traditional sweaters, a polar bear, and nisser waving flags and pulling a wagon of presents, displayed our lodge's Norsk holiday spirit to the record-setting crowd of 45,000 people. Some of our marchers appeared on local Channel 3 TV as part of their evening parade news coverage.



Parade participants (L-R): Dan and Abby Renoos, Joan O'Bryan, Kris Spence, Jeff Andert, Elizabeth Kraatz, Karn Erlandson, Curtis Cleveland, Teri Koretsky.

Service hours reminder

Karen Hare, Secretary

As a gentle reminder, please remember to track your service hours for 2023.

Community Support: If you served on an Askeladden committee or helped with a project that served the local community, please report these events and hours. Examples include the Scholarship Committee and attendance at Lodge-sponsored ice hockey team games or Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association competitions.

Fraternal Support: If you helped plan a program or event for the Lodge members, or if you provided another service to the Lodge such as preparing reports, contributing to the newsletter, hosting meetings, contacting members, or other services, please list those activities and hours.

These vital numbers assist Sons of Norway to maintain its essential non-profit status. Thank you so very much!

ASKELADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian Hero

My last morning in Bergen of my August 2023 Norwegian trip, I discovered a well-stocked bookstore where the sales clerk found me an English-language version of Roland Huntford's 1997 biography of Fridtjof Nansen. Huntford had also written acclaimed biographies of polar explorers Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton. He based his book on his research of hundreds of journals, diaries, letters, articles, and books with more than 70 pages of source notes. Nansen himself wrote journals his whole life which provided much insight into his aspirations with reflections on his disappointments, depressions, challenges and joys. He described his love of skiing and hunting and also documented his extensive scientific research, polar explorations, and later humanitarian efforts to respond to famine and refugee relocation. See links for photos.

<https://www.unhcr.org/th/en/39149-the-passion-vision-and-action-of-fridtjof-nansen-humanitarian-extraordinaire.html>

Fridtjof Nansen learned to ski at about age two, taught by a seven-year-old neighbor girl, and did his first exhilarating jump on a forbidden hill at age ten. He went on to become one of Norway's best skiers. Born in 1861, he grew up on the outskirts of Christiania where he ventured with his brother into nearby wild upland Nordmarka with its forests, lakes, streams and mountains of untracked snow. Skiing was a way of life for Norwegians but had not yet been discovered as a sport, or a means of transportation, by most of the rest of the world.

Nansen first crossed the Arctic Circle on a Norwegian seal hunting ship to collect specimens as a university zoology venture, and upon viewing the impressive Greenland ice cap, was inspired to be the first to cross it. He did meticulous planning and design of equipment needed for a small crew of 4 Norwegians and 2 Lapps. He designed a light-weight stove to cook and melt ice and a sleeping bag filled with reindeer fur for being both light-weight and warm. He also had wooden sledges constructed with broad ski-like runners and no heavy iron similar to those used by Norwegian farmers and lashed together with leather thongs for elasticity. Nansen's use of both sledges and men on skis revolutionized polar exploration. His aim was for speed, simplicity and mobility.

<https://frammuseum.no/polar-history/expeditions/polar-history-expeditions-across-the-greenland-ice-1888-1889/>

Nansen was successful making the first crossing of Greenland in 1888, 260 miles in 11 weeks, and then spent the winter there in an Eskimo village where he learned of their winter survival skills, kayaks, and use of dogs to haul sledges. He was heralded as a national hero upon his return and wrote a book about his explorations crossing Greenland and living with the Eskimos. Nansen went on to combine the use of men on skis with dogs pulling sledges with kayaks attached when he made his attempt to reach the North Pole. He had imagined a new design for a polar ship, the Fram, with rounded sides which instead of becoming crushed by the polar ice, simply was pushed upward. Fram means forward in Norwegian.

Nansen's polar explorations and prolific writings were not his only accomplishments. His research on nerve fibers as a young scientist resulted in the foundations of neurology and he did early innovative research on oceanography. In later years, his stature as Norwegian hero empowered him to serve Norway during its process of gaining independence from Sweden and as an international diplomat. <https://frammuseum.no/polar-history/explorers/>

We may not have the bountiful skills of Fridtjof Nansen, but we can still gather to celebrate the coming holidays, proud of our Norwegian ancestors. Please join us on Sunday, December 10, at 2 p.m.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Norwegian 2024 calendars pickup

If you signed up at our October or November events for either the Splendor of Norway or Viking Verse (Rosemale) calendars, they will be available to pick up at our December event. If you can't make the December program, contact Joan O'Bryan for local delivery before Christmas. Prices for Splendor and Viking Rosemale calendars are \$10.35 and \$10.24, respectively, payable to Joan at our December Lucia event.



Joanna Phelps brought this 1950 issue of JuleGlede to our most recent Norwegian Language class in Marshall. Jule Glede translates to "Christmas Joy."

Jule Glede was an anthology of art and Christmas stories published annually in Norway.

Special invitation from Joanna Stelloh Phelps

Invitation:

You are invited to the Norwegian Language class at our home, 58 Sycamore Avenue in Battle Creek on Wednesday, January 17, class at 10:30-11:30 a.m, followed by a luncheon. This is an open invitation to class members as well as any other Lodge members who would like to attend. Please RSVP attendance only or contact me if you have any questions at (269) 986-5173. Please, there is no need to bring anything - food and beverages will be provided.

More information will be provided in the January newsletter and directions will be provided to those who R.S.V.P attending.



SONS of NORWAY

December
2023

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

DESEMBER KALENDER



- desember 2 - Nordic Fellows Lutefisk Lunch 11:30 a.m. at the Swedish Club
- desember 6 - Finland's National Day - celebrating Finland's independence from the Russian Republic in 1917
- desember 10 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded in Oslo
www.nobelprize.org
- **desember 10** - **Askeladden Lodge & Vasa - St. Lucia Festival 2 p.m.**
Fellowship Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church
504 S. Westnedge
- desember 13 - Luciadagen - St. Lucia Day
- desember 23 - Lille julaften - Little Christmas Eve
- desember 24 - Julaften - Christmas Eve
- desember 25 - Juledag - Christmas Day
- desember 31 - Nyttårsaften - New Year's Eve
- januar 5 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles



Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

December Birthdays

Tore Ramstad
Harold Spencer Lilly
Karen Hare
Scott Bjerke
Secrete House
Sandra Santas
Marilyn Stewart-Loe
Daniel Hadley

God Jul!



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.