



# the Askeladden News



December

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

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

No. 12-17

[sonsofnorway5.com/lodges/details/73-Askeladden-610](http://sonsofnorway5.com/lodges/details/73-Askeladden-610)

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

## Meetings:

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

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

Trinity Lutheran Church

504 S. Westnedge Ave

Kalamazoo, MI

## Officers:

**President:** Curtis Cleveland

(269) 381-4531

[cacleve82@att.net](mailto:cacleve82@att.net)

## Membership Secretary:

Holly Jensen

contact (269) 385-3693

[hollyjensen@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyjensen@yahoo.com)

## Vice-President/Editor:

Joan O'Bryan

507 Clinton Avenue

Kalamazoo, MI 49001

(269) 383-6802

[joan.obryan@wmich.edu](mailto:joan.obryan@wmich.edu)

**Secretary:** vacant

**Cultural Director:** vacant

## Treasurer:

Earnie Best

(269) 375-0300

[earnie@earniebest.com](mailto:earnie@earniebest.com)

## Publishers:

Dennis & Jean Darling

158 Bulkley Street

Kalamazoo, MI 49006

(269) 382-2340

## Affiliation:

Sons of Norway International

1455 West Lake St.

Minneapolis, MN 55408

Andy Johnsen

District 5 Zone 6 Director

[ajohnsen@att.net](mailto:ajohnsen@att.net)

## Benefits Counselor:

Greg Ragan

1 (800) 442-4146

[gregragan@aol.com](mailto:gregragan@aol.com)

Lodge contact info:

[Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com](mailto:Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com)

(269) 350-3330

# December Gathering

## St. Lucia

## Pageant

### 3 p.m. Saturday,

### December 16

## Trinity Lutheran

## Church



Please join us on Saturday, December 16, 3 p.m. for a traditional Scandinavian Saint Lucia pageant in the sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran Church, downtown Kalamazoo. Bring friends and family to sing traditional Christmas carols and listen to the history of Scandinavia's patron saint as read by our own 'Lucia' and her court. We are sharing this festive event with the Swedish Vasa Lodge and the Trinity Church family.

After the pageant, everyone is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments including warm Gløgg (spiced fruit beverage with almonds and raisins).

The Lodge will provide trays of finger food, including vegetables, fruit, cheeses, and snackable cold-cuts. You are welcome to bring cookies to share.

There will be no business session at this Holiday gathering.

Again, please join us on Saturday, December 16 for the Christmas program.

Reminder: if you ordered a Norwegian calendar or want to purchase the book *Hidden Heroes*, remember to bring your checkbook or extra cash.

At Trinity Lutheran Church on Westnedge Ave, we will meet in the Sanctuary upstairs for the Pageant and then retreat to the lower level (Fellowship Hall) of the church for the reception afterward. The entrance we use is at the rear corner of the church in the parking lot. There is an elevator at the rear of the church for those in need of it.

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Fra Presidenten

It's that time of the year to write about Christmas. Despite the absence of snow on the ground, the signs of Christmas are appearing every day.

Like most people, I have a checklist of things I want to accomplish during the Christmas season. The checklist includes the following:

First, mailing Christmas cards and purchasing Christmas presents.

Second, watching the old Christmas movies (DVDs), such as the 1945 movie "Christmas in Connecticut," starring Barbara Stanwyck and the 1954 musical movie "Irving Berlin's White Christmas," starring Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney.

Third, listening to the old Christmas LP phonograph records, featuring Mario Lanza, Placido Domingo, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Fourth, attending Christmas concerts, receptions, and parties, including our own Christmas program on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> with VASA.

I always look forward to the Advent and Christmas season. It certainly is a special time of the year. Best wishes to all Askeladden members and Merry Christmas.

Curtis A. Cleveland, Lodge President

## Kalamazoo's 2017 Holiday Parade

Under Holly Jensen's careful direction and relying on her expert knowledge of Norwegian folklore, Askeladden brought a Scandinavian Christmas presence including four adorable Nissen to the biggest parade in Kalamazoo - the extremely popular Holiday Parade, which draws as many as 30,000 spectators.

If you know about Nissen, you know they are tiny beings. Our Askeladden friends, Anniken Holm, Nina Holm, and Karen and Lucia Williams dressed in Nisse costumes that were designed and lovingly crafted by Holly. Charles Nelson from VASA and Lodge member Curtis Osborn were both Father Christmas, and Lodge member Brett Jensen came back to Kalamazoo to don the infamous Troll costume that all the kids in Kalamazoo have come to love. Both adults and children had a magical time marching in the parade to the delight of the Kalamazoo community crowd.



Photo courtesy of Holly Jensen

## 2018 Officers and Committees

### Board of Directors:

President	Curtis Cleveland
Vice President	Joan O'Bryan
Secretary	<i>vacant</i>
Treasurer	Earnie Best
Cultural Director	<i>vacant</i>
Membership Secretary	Curt Osborn

### Officers:

Social Director	Joyce Hare
Adopt-A-School Coordinator	Curt Osborn
Counselor	Elizabeth Kraatz
Cultural Skills Coordinator	Joyce Hare
Historian	Curtis Cleveland
Language Instructor	Ashli Niles
Librarian	Roger Drong
Musician	Ashli Niles
Newsletter Editor	Joan O'Bryan
Newsletter Publisher	Dennis and Jean Darling
Publicity Director	Karin Code
Rosemaling Coordinator	Joyce Hare
Tubfrim Coordinator	Holly Jensen
Sons/Norway Foundation Director	Dennis Darling
Sports/Recreation Director	Curt Osborn
Sunshine Coordinator	Arden Hetletvedt
Youth Director	Ashli Niles
Webmaster	Thad Shaffer
Volunteer Coordinator	Curtis Cleveland

### Committees:

Membership:	Joan O'Bryan, Chair; Joyce Hare, Curt Osborn, and Holly Jensen
Finance:	Earnie Best, Chair; Joyce Hare, and Ashli Niles
Scholarship:	Joyce Hare, Chair; Elizabeth Kraatz, Margery Selden, and Gail Thompson
Cultural/Social:	Curtis Cleveland, Chair, and Roger Drong
Norway Trip:	Joyce Hare, Chair; Dennis Darling, and Curt Osborn
Publicity:	Karin Code, Chair, and Joan O'Bryan
Nominating:	Curt Osborn, Chair
Auditing:	Joyce Hare, Chair and Ashli Niles

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Recap of November meeting

*Curtis A. Cleveland*

At the November 12<sup>th</sup> Lodge meeting, members and guests enjoyed the talk by Inger Thoen, who recounted her childhood and early youth years in Norway during the German Invasion and Occupation, 1940-1945.



Inger Thoen brought both Norwegian and English versions of the WWII-era children's book *Snorre Sel (Snorri the Seal)*



Inger said that despite the physical and emotional hardships, especially the shortage of food, the Norwegian people would share what little they had with others who had less. This sharing and consideration, according to Inger, is one of the pleasant memories of the War years. We are so grateful to Inger for presenting on this special topic for us.

As part of our Community Service program, members donated non-perishable food, which was given to the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

We sang the Navy hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong To Save," in honor of Veterans Day.

During the business session, the Lodge elected the 2018 officers and committees, which are printed in this newsletter.

Joyce Hare was in charge of the set-up for this meeting, attended by 14 members and 3 guests (Pastor Steve Charnley and his wife, Cindy Charnley, and Paul Johnson)

## Hidden Heroes still available

Looking for a unique last-minute Christmas gift? Copies of *Hidden Heroes: World War II in Norway* will be available for purchase at the December lodge event. The book is a compilation of stories told by District 5 members as they remember their experiences in occupied Norway during the war. One of the stories in the book was written by lodge member Inger Thoen.

The books are \$20 and can be purchased with cash or by check at the reception following the Lucia Pageant. Proceeds from the sales go directly to benefit the District 5 Sons of Norway's Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp.

## 2018 Calendars are here!

Inger will deliver the calendars to us at our December gathering, in time for Christmas. If you placed an order for calendars at the October or November meetings, please bring cash or check to reimburse Inger for the calendars. Checks can be made out to Inger Thoen.

The calendars are \$9.50 this year, a significant savings over the \$15 retail cost.

If you cannot attend the December Lucia Pageant, contact Inger at (269) 345-4477 - Home or (269) 491-9952 - Cell, to arrange for pick-up.

Tusen takk to Inger for organizing this purchase for us - saving us significant effort and money!

## Gratulerer med dagen!

*Fødselsdag Hilsener*

## December Birthdays

Tore Ramstad

Donna Kaarlie

Pamela White

## Askeladden Lodge 2018 scholarships

It's that time of year to start thinking about scholarships for next year. 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. Our 2018 budget allows for \$1000 unrestricted scholarships to be awarded to up to three qualifying students. So if your membership dues have lapsed, be sure to get them paid!

The Scholarship Committee is planning to release the 2018 application and scholarship guidelines in early January. The download details will be published in the January newsletter. The due date for your application and the accompanying documentation, such as letters of recommendation, is March 15, 2018. Being awarded a Lodge scholarship one year neither precludes a student from winning or guarantees that student will win it in subsequent years.

## Askeladden Lodge Library

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

Contact Roger Drong with questions or to reserve resources.



# SONS of NORWAY

*Askeladden Lodge 5-610*

158 Bulkley Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

## DECEMBER KALENDER

*Mark your calendars:*

~ Our Christmas event will be celebrated on **SATURDAY, December 16** ~



- desember 6 - Finland's National Day - celebrating Finland's independence from the Russian Republic in 1917
- desember 10 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded in Oslo  
Live stream available beginning at 7 a.m. at the official website [www.nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org)
- desember 13 - Luciadagen - St. Lucia Day
- **desember 16** - **Askeladden Lodge joins VASA for St. Lucia Pageant 3 p.m.** in the main sanctuary of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 504 S. Westnedge
- 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 3 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles, earlier is appreciated.



*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.