



# the Askeladden News



February

[www.norwayinkalamazoo.com](http://www.norwayinkalamazoo.com)

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

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

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

No. 2-17

## Meetings:

Monthly, most 2nd Sundays, 4 pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
504 S. Westnedge Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI

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**Cultural Director:** vacant

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(269) 350-3330

# The Norwegian and Scottish Connection-- Trip Report 4 p.m. Sunday, February 12 Trinity Lutheran Church

Please join us Sunday - Mother's Day in Norway - at Trinity Lutheran Church for our monthly lodge meeting. Karin Code will present the Cultural Program on her trip to Norway. Karin won the drawing in 2014 for the Norway trip. Her presentation, which is open to the public, will start at 4:15 p.m.

After Karin's program, we will discuss (and might change) the starting time of our monthly Lodge meetings. Currently, as all of you know, we start the monthly meetings at 4 p.m. At the January meeting Jean Darling suggested that if we started at 2 p.m., members would not have to drive in the dark when returning home in the winter months. If you cannot attend the February 12 meeting and wish to have input for our discussion, please contact any of the individuals listed on the left side of this page.

Please bring a dish to pass for the meal, which is scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

All events, cultural program, business meeting, and meal, will be in the basement of the Church.

At Trinity Lutheran Church on Westnedge Ave, we meet in the lower level Fellowship Hall of the church. The entrance we use is at the rear corner of the church. There is an elevator at the rear of the church for those in need of it.

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Fra Presidenten

In last month's column, when writing about Christmas, I mentioned the importance of the traditions that we follow from year to year, such as the Christmas decorations and the Christmas Day dinner.

This month, I'm writing again about traditions, this time as they relate to the Lodge meetings, such as the day of the month on which they are held and the starting time of the Lodge meetings.

Traditionally, since 1999, our lodge meetings have been held on the second Sunday of the month, starting at 4 p.m.

With a 4 p.m. starting time for a three-hour meeting, that means that members leaving the meetings at 7 p.m. are driving home in the dark during the months of October, November, December, January, February, and March.

For some time members have complained about the necessity to drive in the dark in order to attend meetings.

Last month, Jean Darling suggested that we start our lodge meetings at 2 p.m., thereby eliminating the need to drive in the dark when leaving the meetings.

At the February 12 meeting, we will discuss, and take action if desired, the proposal to change the starting time of our meetings from 4 p.m. to 2 p.m.

If you cannot attend the February 12 meeting but wish to have input for the discussion, call Jean Darling at (269-382-2340) or call any of the members listed on the front page of this newsletter.

I hope to see you at the Lodge meeting on February 12, which starts at 4 p.m.

Curtis A. Cleveland, Lodge President

## January meeting recap

At the January Lodge meeting, we watched a DVD on the "Hjemkomst Viking Ship." This ship, modeled after the famous Gokstad Viking Ship in the Viking Ship Hall in Oslo, was built by Robert Asp, a school teacher from Moorhead, Minnesota, in the decade of the 1970s. The ship sailed from Duluth, Minnesota to Bergen and Oslo in 1982. Today, the ship is permanently on display in Moorhead, Minnesota.

The 2017 Lodge Officers were Installed, with Dennis Darling performing the duties of the Installing Officer.

During the Business Meeting, after a one-hour discussion, the Lodge adopted a new policy statement on the Norway Trip Drawing.

There were nine members and eight guests at this meeting. Most of the guests were members of VASA, who were meeting separately in the building, joining us for the program on the "Hjemkomst Viking Ship."

## 2017 Scholarship Information

One of the important benefits of Sons of Norway membership is eligibility to apply for scholarships at three levels: Lodge, District, and National Foundation.

**Lodge Scholarships** - Applications for the 2017 Askeladden Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarships are due to Joyce Hare by March 15, 2017, and must be turned into her by that date. The application forms and all related information are available online at [www.norwayinkalamazoo.com](http://www.norwayinkalamazoo.com) Joyce's address is: 6909 Towhee, Portage, MI 49024. Please contact Joyce Hare at 269-327-5824 with any inquiries. Do not use the email address on our website for Joyce as it is obsolete and our webmaster has not updated it yet.

Cultural Skill Scholarship applications are available to members in the form of a grant, not to exceed \$250. The grants may be given to attend workshops, seminars, conferences or other events promoting Norwegian Culture. The Cultural Grant program does not have a due date. The application guidelines are also on our website.

**District 5 scholarships** - Applications are due by March 15. There are several scholarships available and information can be found by visiting

[sonsofnorway5.com/financial/scholarships.php](http://sonsofnorway5.com/financial/scholarships.php)

Note that all the District 5 scholarships - other than those related to the Masse Moro heritage camp - require a benefits member. S/N products which qualify for benefits include Nordic Elite, Term product, Viking 23 and annuities with a \$2,000 minimum.

**The Sons of Norway Foundation** - offers college scholarships starting at \$1,000 for current members, children or grandchildren of current members and some are available to non-members as well. Application deadlines changed this year, but there are still two Sons of Norway Foundation post-high school scholarships with future deadlines:

- Astrid G. Cates/Myrtle Beinhauer Fund-Award: \$1,000.00 college study in any discipline at a U.S. college or university, Awards vary. DEADLINE: March 1, 2017
- Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarship - open to women only wishing to pursue a degree in physics, chemistry, or engineering: mechanical, electrical, or mechanical. Applicants must be between the ages of 17-35, and other prerequisites apply. Awards vary. DEADLINE: April 1, 2017.

All of the Foundation scholarship applications can be viewed at

[www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/](http://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/)

There are currently seven categories of scholarships offered for different areas of study. All scholarship applications are done online.

All of the information for the District and Foundation scholarships are available at the links provided. If you need additional information on our Lodge scholarship, contact the Scholarship Committee chair, Joyce Hare, at the contact information listed above.

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Remembering Raymond P. Knutson

*Curtis A. Cleveland*

Long-time leader of the Sons of Norway, Ray Knutson died on January 20 at age 80.

Ray attended our Lodge meeting in December 2013, presenting us with a plaque from the International Sons of Norway, commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Askeladden Lodge.



*Ray Knutson speaking at our December 2013 Lodge meeting at Zion Lutheran Church*

At that meeting, I remember one incident very vividly. Ray, during his “Remarks for the Good of the Order,” complained that the local lodges were not submitting photographs to the District to be published in the *Viking* magazine. Our Publicity Committee members, Joan, Karin, and Holly, let it be known that was not the case.

At the District 5 Convention in June 2016, I had the opportunity to talk with Ray again. Ray was the quintessential Sons of Norway member. His dedication to the organization, as well as the devotion of others, is the reason we can have a Sons of Norway.

Ray, who was a past President of District 5, made his living as a plumber. His parents were of Norwegian and Lithuanian background.

## 2017 St. Patrick's Day Parade - plan to join us this year

*Joan Renaas O'Bryan*

Once again our lodge has the opportunity to make our presence known to the greater Kalamazoo community in a fun and easy way. The 17<sup>th</sup> annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Kalamazoo takes place Saturday morning, March 11. We provide the costumes as long as you sign up in advance, so that makes it easy for you. Please help us with planning by signing up at the February meeting. If you can't make the meeting, contact Joan if you are interested in participating. Staging area and time will be shared with participants once we receive it from the Irish American Club.

## Michigan Nordic Fire Festival

The second annual Michigan Nordic Fire Festival takes place the last weekend of February in Charlotte, MI. Our lodge is one of the co-sponsors and you are encouraged to check the schedule of events and attend with your families.

<http://www.michigannordicfirefestival.com>

## A Romantic Restoration

A current restoration project taking place at Maihaugen, one of Northern Europe's largest open-air museums in Lillehammer, Norway, is generating anticipation for the project's completion.

The endeavor is steeped in Norwegian culture, a bit of romance and a royal twist.

Just weeks ago, the disassembled 1930s childhood home of H.M. Queen Sonja of Norway was moved from its original location at Tuengen allé 1b at Vinderen, Oslo, to Maihaugen in Lillehammer. The home is to be reassembled, furnished in an authentic manner, and opened to the public as part of a popular attraction at the museum that features homes representing each decade from the 1920s through 2001.

Work is now underway to breathe life into the house, which will showcase replicated and original furnishings used from 1935 to 1968. Queen Sonja lived there for most of her childhood years, until 1968 when she married then Crown Prince Harald. According to Maihaugen's website, the home was one of the few



*Photo credit: Jørgen Gonnæs / The Royal Court*

places the couple could meet during the nine years they were dating.

The house is constructed in the functionalist style, with hipped roof, horizontal cladding, windows by the corners and balconies with steel rails.

Museum guests can look forward to the official opening of the project on August 29, 2018, the date of Their Majesties' 50th wedding anniversary.

## Gratulerer med dagen! Fødselsdag Hilsener February Birthdays

Crystal Walvoord

Barbara Heffner

Brent Roble

Karen Kunze

Bjørn Thorsrud

Elizabeth Kraatz

Gail Thompson-Hadley

## Askeladden Lodge Library

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





Contact Roger Drong with questions or to reserve resources.

ASKELADDEN LODGE 5•610  
SONS OF NORWAY  
158 Bulkley Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006



*www.sonsofnorway.com*

## FEBRUAR KALENDER

-  • Februar 6 - *Samefolkets dag* - Sámi People's Day or Sámi National Day
- Februar 12 - HH Princess Astrid, 1932
- Februar 12 - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting and program** followed by potluck dinner  
4:00 p.m Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge
- Februar 12 - *Morsdag* - Mother's Day in Norway
- Februar 14 - Valentine's Day ♡
-  • Februar 15 - National Flag Day of Canada
-  • Februar 20 - President's Day, United States
-  • Februar 21 - H.M. King Harald V 1937
- Februar 23 - Barnebirkie, Hayward, Wisconsin
- Februar 24-26 Michigan Nordic Fire Festival, Charlotte \$2 person/\$5 family admission fee. Complete info at  
<http://www.michigannordicfirefestival.com>
- Februar 25 - American Birkebeiner, Telemark Lodge, Hayward, Wisconsin [www.birkie.com](http://www.birkie.com)
- Februar 26 - *Fastelavn* - Scandinavian Mardi Gras
- Februar 28 - Last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles

**Important!**  
Remember to bring  
your completed 2016  
Support Hours form  
to the February 12  
meeting.



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.