



# *the Askeladden News*



June/July

[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. 06/07-17

## **Meetings:**

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

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

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Kalamazoo, MI

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# **Midsommarfest**

## **with VASA**

## **at Cadwallader Park**

## **Saturday, June 24, Noon**

Keeping with years of tradition, our lodge is invited to join in the fun at the VASA Midsommarfest at Cadwallader Park in Hickory Corners. The activities start at noon and the smörgåsbord meal begins at 1 p.m.

Water and ice will be provided. Bring a dish to pass of any type of food – Scandinavian preferred, but something that will withstand the weather.

Cadwallader Park has a covered pavilion with picnic tables and a small playground for the children. Planned activities including singing and dancing around the Midsommarstang (Maypole) and a round of the Viking game of Kubb. See the article in the June 2017 issue of the *Viking* for more information on this Nordic game.

To get to Cadwallader Park, head for the Gilmore Car Museum, which is almost six miles north of Richland at the intersection of M-43/M-89 and Hickory Road. Turn right onto Hickory Road, drive 2.1 miles, going east, and look for the Swedish flag on the north (left) side of the road.

You probably won't find Cadwallader Park on any map or GPS. So bring this newsletter with you if you haven't been to this event before. Complete directions from several locations can be found on page 2.

If you need more information, call Holly Jensen at (269) 385-3693.

*We have no events scheduled for July this year. The next planned event will take place the first Sunday in August when we gather at the Jensen residence for an ice cream social with our VASA friends.*

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Fra Presidenten

After the May 21<sup>st</sup> Lodge meeting, where the cultural program was on the “Tribute to Vietnam Veterans,” I thought about some of the Memorial Day services that I have attended and about the war memorial monuments that I have seen in my lifetime.

My earliest thoughts are those of the Memorial Day parades in the small town that I grew up in west-central Minnesota, Detroit Lakes. The parades began with two or three sedan cars with large gold stars on the doors of the cars. The crowd watched in silence and reverence as the Gold Star Mothers rode by in these cars.

Many years later, I was overwhelmed when I saw the Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Washington, DC. Because the Wall is below the ground level, you do not see it until you are about 100 feet from it and then, all of a sudden, you are overwhelmed with these two giant triangular walls, made of black granite, containing 58,000 names. Each name represents an American Veteran who died in the Vietnam War.

More recently, four years ago, I was very impressed when I saw the World War II Memorial at the Harvard Memorial Church on the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. When sitting in the pews in the sanctuary, I could read the names of the “Harvard Men,” all 690 of them, faculty and students, carved in stone, on the World War II Memorial, which takes up one side of the sanctuary. I was shocked by the large number of students from Harvard who were killed in WWII.

Last week, on the Memorial Day weekend, at the Chicago Public Library, I saw a memorial called “Above and Beyond,” consisting of 58,000 Identification Tags, commonly called dog tags. Each tag has the name of an American serviceperson who was killed in Vietnam.

I hope everyone had a meaningful Memorial Day.

Curtis A. Cleveland, Lodge President

## Combined Issue

Welcome to *Askeladden News*. Due to the summer break in meetings, June and July newsletters are combined into one issue. Our lodge has no activities planned for July this year. Regular meetings are held the second Sunday at 2 p.m. September through April and the third Sunday in May. All public events are announced on our Facebook page.

## Directions to Cadwallader

### Directions to Cadwallader Park from I-94

Exit I-94 at Exit 85 (Galesburg-Augusta). Turn toward Galesburg-Augusta.

Travel north on 35<sup>th</sup> St 1 mile.

Turn left on M-96/E Michigan Ave and follow 0.8 mile.

Turn right at N 33<sup>rd</sup> St for 3.1 miles.

Continue on N 32<sup>nd</sup> St for 5.5 miles.

N 32<sup>nd</sup> St turns right and becomes M-43/Wall Lake Rd. Follow 3.3 miles.

Turn right (east) onto Hickory Road.

Cadwallader Park is 2.1 miles on the left. (If you get to Hickory Corners, you’ve gone too far.)

### Directions to Cadwallader Park from inside Kalamazoo (Gull Road & Sprinkle intersection)

Follow Gull Road/M-43 northeast for 5.1 miles to traffic light in Richland.

Turn left (north) on M-43/M-89 and follow 5.7 miles.

Turn right (east) onto Hickory Road.

Cadwallader Park is 2.1 miles on the left – before Hickory Corners

### Directions to Cadwallader Park from US-131 North of Kalamazoo (or M-89)

Exit US-131 at Exit 49A - Plainwell.

Follow M-89 east 12 miles to stop sign at M-43.

Turn left (north) on M-43 and continue for 5 miles.

Turn right (east) onto Hickory Road.

Cadwallader Park is 2.1 miles on the left – before Hickory Corners

## Time for Midsummer Festivities

Is your family ready for Midsummer? The June holiday is a prime opportunity to bring a little Norwegian culture to the middle of summer. Here are a few of our favorite Midsummer customs that you can easily bring into your household!

A good Midsummer celebration has to include a bonfire. In pre-Christian times, bonfires were thought to awaken the Earth after its winter slumber. Today they’re a great way to bring the family together and bridge the gap between Norwegian and American customs.

Just like here, many Midsummer bonfires in Norway include hot dogs and s’mores, something that will likely be a big hit with your family at home. However, good food is always popular and Midsummer is no exception.

Finally, once you have the family together around the bonfire and you’ve had your fill of food, share some Norwegian folktales. Tales of Viking adventures or trolls make for great bonfire tales and could spark an interest in your kids’ Norwegian roots.

However your family chooses to celebrate Midsummer, make it a special evening!

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Highlights of the April Board Meeting

*Curtis A. Cleveland*

The Board of Directors met on April 25 at the Earnie Best residence. This was our second meeting of the year.

The Board approved two summer activities for the Lodge, the VASA Picnic & Midsommarfest on June 24 and the Ice Crème Social on August 6, the first Sunday in August. After discussion, the Board decided to skip the Fjord horses event this year.

The Board reauthorized the travel reimbursement policy for member-delegates to the District 5 convention.

The Board reviewed the Healthy Lodge Checklist, an assessment published by the International Sons of Norway. Board members completed the "Board Member Disclosure Questionnaire," a conflict-of-interest assessment published by the International Sons of Norway.

## Gratulerer med dagen!

*Fødselsdag Hilsener*

### June/July Birthdays

- June - Kaeler James Stafne
- Sandra Shaffer
- Anne Rapp
- Terese Sherman
- July - Terilyn Koretsky
- Sondra Phillips
- Marilyn Sogge
- Karin Loberg Code
- Iona Robbins

The Board agreed to continue the \$25 donations to local performing arts groups for publicity, that is, getting our name published in the program booklets.

The Board discussed the possibility of changing the ownership of the website, [www.norwayinkalamazoo.com](http://www.norwayinkalamazoo.com). Currently, this website is owned by a former member, not the Lodge.

The Board agreed to contact Vidar Skrede of the Minneapolis/Chicago based duo The Newlands Co-op for a possible concert in Kalamazoo.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 19 at 7 p.m., at the Earnie Best residence.

## Recap of May Lodge Meeting

*Curtis A. Cleveland, Cultural Committee Chair*

At the May 21 Lodge meeting, the members, guests, and visitors enjoyed the annual Syttende Mai Celebration. We had a great attendance consisting of 20 members, 2 guests, and 5 visitors. The visitors, who were from the Sonja Henie Lodge in Lansing, included Gary and Pat Lee, Jan Thompson, Mary and Jim Ellickson.

We started the meeting with the Children's parade or Barnetog, marching outside, carrying Norwegian flags.

As a tribute to the American Memorial Day, we sang the national hymn "This Is My Song." The melody of this hymn is the tune "Finlandia" by the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.



*A handful of adults joined the children for our annual Syttende Mai Barnetog at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo.*

The Kraatz family presented the cultural program called "Tribute to Vietnam Veterans." Alice and James, both Heritage members, with support from Elizabeth, their mother, talked about the event held one year ago in Portage called "A Tribute to Vietnam Veterans and Their Families."

We had a Food Drive and collected monetary donations for the food banks. Members donated 36 items/35 pounds of food, which was given to the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. Members donated \$77 for the Food Banks: \$27 to the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes; and \$50 to the Food Bank of South Central Michigan.

We concluded the meeting with a formal toast to the King and Queen of Norway, followed by the singing of "God Bless the King."

Inger Thoen was available to sign copies of the *Hidden Heroes* book.












We had an excellent meal, and even had a beautiful Kransekakke made by Holly. The meeting setup was coordinated by Joan, Jean and Holly. Thanks to all who attended and participated.

ASKELOADDEN LODGE 5•610  
SONS OF NORWAY  
158 Bulkley Street  
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*www.sonsofnorway.com*

## JUNI/JULI KALENDER

-  • juni 4 - Pinsedag - Pentecost
-  • juni 5 - Grundlovsdag - Constitution Day of Denmark
-  • juni 6 - Sveriges nasjonaldag - National Day of Sweden
-  • juni 7 - Unionsoppløsningen - Norway-Sweden Union dissolved 1905
-  • juni 14 - U.S. Flag Day
-  • juni 17 - Icelandic National Day
- juni 18 - Father's Day
- juni 24 - Sankt Hans Dag - Jonsok - Midsummer Day
- **juni 24 - VASA Midsommarfest at Cadwallader Park, Hickory Corners - noon**
-  • juli 1 - Canada Day
-  • juli 4 - U.S. Independence Day
-  • juli 4 - HM Queen Sonja's Birthday, 1937
-  • juli 20 - HRH Crown Prince Haakon Magnus' Birthday, 1973
- **juli 21 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles for the August issue**
-  • juli 29 - St. Olav's Day (Olsok)



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.