



# the Askeladden News



March

Sons of Norway • Askeladden Lodge 5-610 • Kalamazoo, Michigan  
*A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway*

3-18

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

[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

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# Sampling Scandinavia on YouTube

## 2 p.m. Sunday, March 11 Trinity Lutheran Church

Did you know that 300 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every *Minute*?

Do you watch any of the 5 billion YouTube videos viewed every *Day*?

Are you suddenly thinking that you are missing out on a lot of entertaining and educational video of interest to you?

Fear not!

Askeladden member Brett Jensen will share some of his favorite Nordic-themed videos that will leave you laughing as well as informed.

Join us on Sunday, March 11 at 2 p.m. (remember to spring your clocks ahead on that Saturday night) for our monthly gathering.

The meeting starts at 2 p.m. with a shared meal. Please bring a dish, hot or cold, to share. Coffee and water will be provided. If you prefer, you may bring your own tableware, however paper and plasticware will be available.

Brett's program will begin at 3 p.m. The business session will start at 4 p.m.

The meal, cultural program, and business session will take place in Fellowship Hall, in the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church. Parking is available in the church parking lot. Enter the church at the South door.

The meal and cultural program are family-friendly and are open to the public. Please join us.

At Trinity Lutheran Church on Westnedge Ave, we meet in the lower level Fellowship Hall of the church. Parking is available at the rear of the church. Entrance is from the parking lot at the rear corner of the church. There is an elevator at the rear of the church for those in need of it. Askeladden cultural programs are family-friendly unless posted otherwise.

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## February meeting and program recap

*Curtis A. Cleveland*

We learned about the ‘thin veil’ in Celtic societies at the February Lodge meeting, when Pastor Jake Lehman gave the Cultural Program on “Scottish Spiritualism and Norway.” Pastor Lehman’s one-hour program, which was the highlight of the meeting, featured excellent photographs he took on his Sabbatical trip to Scotland, Norway, and Europe in 2017.

During the business session, the Lodge approved three New Business motions. First, the Lodge elected Holly Jensen and Curt Osborn as delegates and Curtis Cleveland as alternate to the District 5 Convention (June 27-30, 2018, La Crosse, WI). Second, the Lodge elected Curt Osborn (Chair) and Joyce Hare to the Nominating Committee to select the officer candidates for 2019. Third, the Lodge authorized the Social Committee to spend up to \$200 for refreshments and food for the “Vidar and Randy” concert on April 8.

Eleven members and two guests attended the meeting. Joyce Hare coordinated the set-up. The meal, heavy on desserts, reflected Valentine’s Day. Each mother was given a beautiful carnation for Mother’s Day (in Norway) and a hand-made Valentine. Many thanks are extended to Joyce.

## Fra Presidenten

The 2018 Winter Olympics are history. Norway did very well, winning 39 medals, 14 of them gold, surpassing all others nations.

If you recall from the February issue of the *Viking* magazine, Norway was predicted to come in second as far as the medal count, following Germany. When the Olympics were completed, Germany came in second, winning a total of 31 medals, 14 of them gold.

But, all may not be well in Norway. The February 24<sup>th</sup> *NY Times* had an interesting article by David Segal, who reported that some Norwegians are worried that the continued domination of Norwegians in the Winter Olympics, especially cross-country skiing, will hurt the public’s interest in cross-country. The theory is, according to Norwegians, that the general public resents a domination of a sport by a small nation, such as Norway with a population of 5 million people, loses interest in the sport, and stops following the sport. In recent years, the European TV viewership of the cross-country skiing events has decreased.

Personally, I didn’t watch that much of the Winter Olympics this year. I was especially disappointed in the program scheduling of the figure skating events, the sport I like to watch. On the night of the Women’s Free Skate, the better skaters (Russians) did not perform until after midnight, past my bed time.

Curtis Cleveland, Lodge President

## Leif Ove Andsnes at Keyboard Festival

*Roger Drong, Cultural Committee*

Leif Ove Andsnes, our 1998 Gilmore Artist, will be performing his biannual recital on April 30 at 8 p.m. in Chenery Auditorium. The program includes Danish composer Carl Nielsen’s largest solo piano piece, Chaconne, five pieces by Sibelius, five beautiful pieces by Schubert, and a Beethoven sonata.

Now 48, Andsnes is one of the most prominent pianists of our time - hosting his own music festival, being involved in musical documentaries, having 45 CDs (with another 16 in compilation with others), and a number of DVDs.

In addition to the general repertoire, he specializes in music of “ethnic” composers Janacek, Szymanowski, Nielsen, Sibelius, and Bartok, along with new music of modern Norwegian composers. He is noted for his elegance, power, and insight.

He and his female partner have three young children.

A number of his performances are available free on YouTube including live performances of the Rachmaninoff 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> piano concertos.

PERSONAL PREFERENCES: I have 16 tickets for the Gilmore, but the FOUR concerts I would not miss are the Andsnes, the orchestral program with our new Gilmore Artist Igor Levit, the concerts by Trifonoiv, Grosvenor, and Gilmore Young Artist Wu.

Note: Reserved seating for Andsnes is available for \$18, \$28, and \$38. Discounts are available this year to WMU associates for the Gilmore Keyboard Festival events.

[www.thegilmore.org/event/leif-ove-andsnes/](http://www.thegilmore.org/event/leif-ove-andsnes/)

## St. Patrick’s Day Parade fun - JOIN US!

*Joan Renaas O’Byran*

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Kalamazoo takes place Saturday morning, March 17, and we are getting very excited about it! 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 March meeting. Contact Joan if you can’t make the meeting and you are interested in participating. The parade is a qualifying event if you are entering our Norway trip drawing this year.

We will gather in our usual spot near the alley side of the Rose St. Comerica Building at 10:30 a.m. to put on our Viking gear. Allow enough time to find a parking spot amongst all the other parade-goers and make your way to the gathering spot. We assemble behind the Old World Village group to march off. The parade begins at 11 a.m. The parade will be a little different for viewers from years past, as there will be no floats. Lanes used to stage the floats have been closed due to major construction along Michigan Avenue.

# ASKELADDEN NEWS

## April and May 2018 Lodge meetings

*Curtis A. Cleveland, Cultural Committee Chair*

Music is the theme of the April and May Lodge Meetings.

On April 8, the Sons of Norway and VASA will sponsor a concert of Norwegian folk music. The musical duo, led by Vidar Skrede, called "Vidar and Randy," will perform 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran Church. Vidar Skrede, performer and teacher, born in Norway, educated in Norway and Sweden, currently resides in Chicago. Vidar's music has been described as a blend of the melodies of Norwegian folk music and the rhythm of Irish folk music.

For more information and a preview of Vidar's music, visit [www.vidarskrede.com](http://www.vidarskrede.com).

On May 20 (the third Sunday), Margery Selden and Mary Jane Sullivan will perform a "Four Hands - One Piano Concert," featuring music of Edvard Grieg as part of our Syttende Mai Celebration. The last time Mary Jane and Margery performed for our Lodge was in May and October of 2016. So don't miss this opportunity to see their talents on display!

## Quarterly Board meeting announced

President Curtis Cleveland has announced the next Board of Directors Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 20, at the residence of Earnie Best at 7 p.m. Interested lodge members are welcome to attend.

## 2018 Scholarship DEADLINE March 15

You still have time to submit applications for our Lodge scholarships. This is a wonderful opportunity for your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Our 2018 budget allows for \$1000 unrestricted scholarships to be awarded to up to three qualifying students.

Applications (and all accompanying documents) for the 2018 Askeladden Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarships are due to Joyce Hare by March 15, 2018. The application form and all related information may be downloaded from our website at [www.norwayinkalamazoo.com](http://www.norwayinkalamazoo.com)

Please contact Joyce Hare at (269) 327-5824 with any inquiries.

Being awarded a Lodge scholarship one year neither precludes a student from winning or guarantees that student will win it in subsequent years.

The application process is not complicated as financial need is not considered, but a little planning is required to gather the required documents, such as transcripts and letters of recommendation on letterhead. So we encourage you to start the process today as no late applications are accepted.

## Seeking Lodge meeting set-up volunteers

*Joyce Hare, Social Director*

Thank you to everyone who previously helped with meeting Set-up and Clean-up. There are some dates available for 2018. We do need your help. The following months are open. Please fill in where you can. Your help is SO appreciated.

- September - joint meeting with VASA
- October
- November
- December - may be a joint meeting with VASA

In addition, help is needed for clean-up at all months this year. Contact me if you can assist.

Thanks for pitching in to make our Lodge meetings a success!

## VASA: Swedish Architecture II

Charles Nelson, a VASA member who has joined us for many of our parades throughout the years, is presenting a program at VASA this Sunday, March 4, on Swedish Architecture II. The program is part of VASA's regular monthly gathering at Trinity Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall, the same room in the church where our Lodge meets. The event begins at 2:30 p.m.

## Welcome to Askeladden!

The Membership Committee would like to welcome recent new member **Bill Strong** of Portage to our lodge as well as returning member **Brandon Feringa** of Marcellus. Our meetings and events provide opportunities to share our Norwegian heritage as well as fellowship with our lodge members. We are so happy you've decided to join us in the celebration of our special heritage.

## 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 turns 30 this year

Planning for our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is already underway. If you have ideas to share for it or wish to join the committee, contact committee chair Joan O'Bryan. We expect to have a very special celebration in the fall.



# SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

5749 Stadium Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

## MARS KALENDER

- mars 4 - VASA program: Swedish Architecture II by Charles Nelson  
Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall 2:30 p.m.
- mars 8 - *Den Internasjonale Kvinnedagen* - International Women's Day
- mars 11 - **Askeladden Lodge Program/meeting/potluck dinner**  
2:00 p.m. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
*Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. - spring forward!*
- mars 13 - Commonwealth Day (Canada)
- mars 15 - **Askeladden Lodge and District 5 Scholarship applications due** - see article on page 3. <http://sonsofnorway5.com>
- mars 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- mars 17 - **St. Patrick's Day parade** downtown Kalamazoo. Marchers and helpers meet by 10:30 am. Plan to join us for some fun!
- mars 20 - Board of Directors meeting 7 p.m. Earnie Best residence
- mars 20 - *Vårjendøgn* - Vernal Equinox, First day of Spring
- mars 25 - *Palmesøndag* - Palm Sunday
- mars 28 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles
- mars 30 - *Langfredag* - Good Friday

### Gratulerer med dagen!

*Fødselsdag Hilsener*

### March Birthdays

David Sherman	Esden R. Stafne
Richard Adams	Joan O'Bryan
Druanna Darling	Betsy Fish
Robert Laird	Christina Sherman
Andrew Sherman	Mary Sue Dawsey
Margaret	Arden L. Hetletvedt



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.