



the Askeladden News



October

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

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

No. 10-16

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Meetings:

Monthly, most 2nd Sundays, 4 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
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Kalamazoo, MI

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Four Hands - One Piano

a concert performed by

Margery Stomne Selden & Mary Jane Sullivan

4 p.m. Sunday, October 9

Trinity Lutheran Church

Please join us October 9 for the monthly Askeladden Lodge meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church.

The highlight of the meeting will be the "Four Hands and One Piano" piano concert performed by Margery Selden and Mary Jane Sullivan. This duet, who performed at the Syttende Mai Celebration earlier this year, will play music of Edvard Grieg (1843-1907), the famous Norwegian composer, and Gabriel Urban Faure (1845-1924), the French organist and composer.

During the business session, Dennis Darling, Chair of the Nominating Committee, will announce the slate of candidates recommended for the officer positions of Askeladden Lodge in 2017.

We will conclude the meeting with a meal, scheduled to start at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass for the meal.

All activities will be in Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the Church.



ASKE LADDEN NEWS

a little in English...

Young Norwegian women sought freedom in New York

Emigration from Norway drew to an end in the period between world wars, but people from the Agder counties continued to seek their fortune all the way into the 1960s. Almost half of the emigrants were young, unmarried women. Siv Ringdal from the Institute for Cultural Studies and Oriental Languages at the University of Oslo has tracked down and interviewed 21 of them as part of her doctoral thesis.

“For many it was an act of liberation. Many of them describe this as the best time of their life, even if it was a difficult transition. There was actually nobody who said that they did not enjoy it, Ringdal said to forskning.no.

Two thirds live in the US

Most of those who Ringdal interviewed were from 17 up to their early 20s when they left farms and towns of southern Norway for the worldly metropolis of New York. Today the women are between 70 and 90 years old.

Ringdal has done fieldwork both in Norway and on the east coast of the USA where most of those who stayed, settled down. Seven of the women returned home upon marrying, while 14 remained in the States.

Norwegian colony in Brooklyn

Most of the young women who came over visited the Norwegian enclave in Brooklyn before finding a job as a maid there or in Manhattan. Many encountered a steep learning curve. They were thrown into work life and couldn't speak English in the beginning. But through their jobs they became acquainted with American culture.

The women experienced this as liberating in many ways. They were used to food rationing in post-war Norway and came to New York with hand-sewn and mended clothing. Now they had gained independence and earned money to spend on what they wanted.

Treasure chest of memories

Although no one Ringdal interviewed had a bad time in the States, some of them moved back to the Old Country, anyway. It was an era of their lives that they view with nostalgia.

They came home with huge loads of furniture and all of the comforts they could take with them. They had kept dresses, jewelry, and pictures of that time that they store in boxes and trunks. They also brought home recipes for American dishes that they had served while there. But for those who stayed in the U.S., their memories of Norway serve as mementos.

“They have a more nostalgic view of the Norway that they left. They have the need to show that they still remember Norwegian recipes and served me meatballs and cream cake when I came to interview them,” says Ringdal.

litt på norsk...

Norske jenter dro til New York for å bli frigjort

Utvandringen fra Norge tok slutt i mellomkrigstiden, men fra Agderfylkene fortsatte nordmenn å å søke lykken helt frem til utpå sekstitallet. Nesten halvparten av utvandrerne var unge, ugifte kvinner. Siv Ringdal, fra Institutt for kulturstudier og orientalske språk ved Universitetet i Oslo, har sporet opp og intervjuet 21 av dem som del av sin doktorgrad.

– For mange var det et frigjøringsprosjekt. Mange av dem betegner dette som den beste tiden i deres liv, selv om det var en hard omstilling. Det var faktisk ingen som sa de ikke trivdes, sier Ringdal til forskning.no.

To tredeler bor i USA

De fleste Ringdal intervjuet var fra 17 år og til i starten av 20-årene da de dro fra bygder og byer på Sørlandet til verdensmetropolen New York. I dag er kvinnene mellom 70 og 90 år gamle.

Ringdal har gjort feltarbeid både i Norge og på østkysten av USA, der de fleste som ble værende, bosatte seg. Syv av kvinnene vendte hjem til Norge da de giftet seg, mens 14 ble boende i statene.

Norsk koloni i Brooklyn

De fleste av jentene som dro over var innom det norske eksilmiljøet i Brooklyn, før de fikk jobb som hushjelp der eller på Manhattan. Mange fikk en bratt læringskurve. De ble kastet ut i arbeidslivet og kunne ikke engelsk i starten.

Men gjennom jobben ble de kjent med amerikansk kultur.

Kvinnene opplevde det som frigjørende på mange måter. De var vant med rasjonering av matvarer i etterkrigs-Norge og kom New York med hjemmesydd og omsydd klær. Nå fikk de selvstendighet og tjente penger som de kunne bruke på akkurat det de ville.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25, at the Earnie Best residence. The 2017 budget will be reviewed. All Lodge members are welcome to attend the meeting. However, only Board officers will vote on agenda items.

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

Oktober Birthdays

James Moe

James John Kraatz

Haakon Selden

Dean Hal Beckwith

Clifford Davidson

Skattkiste av minner

Selv om ingen av dem Ringdal intervjuet mistrivdes i statene, flyttet likevel noen tilbake til gamlelandet. For dem er dette en epoke i livet som de har et nostalgisk syn på.

De kom med store flyttelass med møbler og all den komforten de kunne få med seg. De har tatt vare på kjoler, smykker og bilder fra denne tiden, som de oppbevarer i kister og skrin. De tok med seg matoppskrifter på amerikanske matretter som de serverte. Men de som ble igjen i USA har ofte ikke tatt vare på slike minner. – De har i stedet et mer nostalgisk syn på det Norge de forlot. De har behov for å vise at de fortsatt husker norske oppskrifter, og serverte meg kjøttkaker og bløtkake da jeg kom for å intervju dem, forteller Ringdal.

Excerpted and translated from:

<http://forskning.no/2016/05/norske-bedehusjenter-dro-til-new-york-bli-frigjort>

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

September Meeting included special concert performed by Norse Code

Curtis Cleveland, Chair, Cultural Committee

Members who attended the September 11 meeting enjoyed a concert of Norwegian and Swedish music performed by the Code Family: David, Karin, Astrid, and Mai Elise, in the Sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran Church (TLC).

Approximately 85 people attended the concert, including 21 members and 7 guests of Askeladden Lodge. The concert, which was open to the public, was sponsored by the Swedish VASA Lodge. Following the concert, attendees enjoyed refreshments and conversation in Fellowship Hall.



During the Lodge meeting, Karen Kunze led the Memorial Service in honor of the members who died during the past year, including Mary Lucille Dent, Fred Sitkins, Myrtle Baker-Kerr, Marjorie Ardell Olson Piper, and Hildy Montgomery.

Members sang the hymn *Peace among Earth's Peoples*, music and lyrics by Margery Selden.

Joan presented Membership Recruitment Pins from the International Sons of Norway Headquarters to Dennis Darling and Margery Selden for recruiting new members during the year 2015.

Teri led a very meaningful discussion on TLC's position on "People asking for money in the Church parking lot."

After distributing a written report, Curtis updated members on the District 5 Convention, which he attended in June 2016, in Marshfield, WI. Discussion followed. Curtis presented a Certificate of Recognition from the District 5 to Joan for the *Askeladden News* newsletter.

The Lodge elected the Nominating Committee which will draft the slate of candidates for the 2017 Officer and Director positions of Askeladden Lodge. Dennis Darling will chair the committee.

In recognition of the 28th Anniversary of Askeladden Lodge, members concluded the meeting by singing *Auld Lang Syne*.

Fra Presidenten

It's election time! Actually, in November 2016, there are two elections.

The first election, the one occurring on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, each leap year, is the United States Presidential Election.

The second election, the one occurring on November 13th at the Lodge meeting is the Election of the Officers and Directors of Askeladden Lodge for 2017.

In this column, I'm not writing about the Clinton vs. Trump Election. I'm writing about the Askeladden Lodge election.

The Constitution of the Sons of Norway outlines the procedure for electing local lodge officers in a three-step process.

The first step, or the September phase, is the Lodge electing the Nominating Committee. Last month, the Lodge elected Dennis and Jean Darling to the Nominating Committee, with Dennis as Chairperson.

The second step, or the October phase, is the Lodge accepting the Report of the Nominating Committee, listing the slate of candidates recommended for the Officer and Director positions of Askeladden Lodge.

The third step, or the November phase, is the Lodge electing the Officers and Directors of Askeladden Lodge.

By tradition, and not under the By-laws, at Askeladden Lodge, we elect committee members at the same time we elect the Lodge Officers and Directors.

Therefore, at the November 13th meeting, we will elect members of the following committees: Membership, Finance, Norway Trip, Cultural/Social, Scholarship, and the Publicity Committees.

Please consider serving in one of the Officer or Director positions. This is very important. During 2016, three officer positions have been vacant, Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Cultural Director, causing serious problems.

If you are a new member and feel uncomfortable accepting an Officer or Director position, please consider serving on one of the committees.

Finally, it's very important that you vote in both elections, November 8th and November 13th.

Curtis A. Cleveland, Lodge President

ASKELOADDEN LODGE 5•610
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OKTOBER KALENDER

- oktober 2 - VASA Fish Boil, Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge St. - 1 p.m.
- oktober 9 - Leif Erikson Day
- **oktober 9 - Askeladden program and meeting followed by potluck dinner**
4 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church
504 S. Westnedge St. Kalamazoo. Entrance in rear.
- oktober 10 - Columbus Day
- oktober 24 - United Nations Day – FN-dagen
- oktober 25 - Board of Directors Meeting 7 p.m.
Earnie Best residence
- oktober 31 - Halloween
- oktober 31 - final day to submit articles for *Askeladden News*
- november 6 - Daylight Saving Time ends
- november 8 - Election Day



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.