



the Askeladden News



February

www.norwayinkalamazoo.com

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

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

No. 2-16

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Meetings:

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

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Odd Nansen & his Secret Diary

4 p.m. Sunday, February 14

Trinity Lutheran Church

504 S. Westnedge Ave. Kalamazoo

We look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday when Jean Darling will present a program on Odd Nansen that she prepared for us, based largely on the English translation of his critically-acclaimed book, *Fra dag til dag*.

Odd Nansen was the son of Fridtjof Nansen, the famous explorer, scientist, diplomat, humanitarian, and the 1922 Nobel Peace Prize laureate we learned about at a previous cultural program.

Like his father, Odd Nansen worked with refugees, establishing the Nansen Relief in 1936, an organization helping Jewish refugees escape from Nazi persecution. In 1942, Odd Nansen was arrested and placed in concentration camps in Norway and Germany for the duration of WWII. After the war, he published a diary he had managed to keep while imprisoned, *Fra dag til dag*. The English translation *From Day to Day* was published several years later.

One of the interesting aspects of Jean's presentation covers Tommy Buergenthal, a 10-year-old Jewish youth, who Odd Nansen befriended in the concentration camp.

Surprisingly, right now there is a resurgence of interest - in both Norway and America - in Nansen as well as his diary depicting the horrific details of day-to-day life and death in the concentration camps. Jean will also explore this development.

We will meet in the dining room (lower level) of Trinity Lutheran Church at 4 p.m. for the meeting. Please bring a dish to pass. Plates, cups, and eating utensils will be provided if you choose not to bring your own. Remember to bring your completed Support Hours forms to the February meeting.

ASKELADDEN NEWS

2016 Scholarship Information

Lodge Scholarships - For all you members and grandparents, this is the time to get applications completed and sent for our local Askeladden Lodge Myrtle Beinhauer college scholarship program. The applications are available online at our web page: www.norwayinkalamazoo.com

The applications for the Askeladden Lodge Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarship are due March 15, 2016 and must be received by Joyce Hare by or on that date. Her address is: 6909 Towhee, Portage, MI 49024. Please contact Joyce Hare at 269-327-5824 with any inquiries.

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. There is not a due date for the Cultural Grant program. The application guidelines are also on our website.

Masse Moro Heritage camp scholarships - our lodge automatically gives matching grants to children and grandchildren of lodge members who apply by the deadline, bringing the cost of the youth camp to nearly half. Download the form from either the District 5 website or the Masse Moro website and turn the completed form into Lodge Treasurer Earnie Best. For more info on Masse Moro, you are encouraged to check both the District 5 website and massemoro.org

District 5 scholarships - Applications are due by March 15. There are several scholarships available and information can be found by visiting www.sonsofnorway5.com and clicking on the **District 5 Scholarships** tab on the left-side menu.

The Sons of Norway Foundation - offers college scholarships starting at \$1,000 for current members, children or grandchildren of current members. Sons of Norway Foundation post-high school scholarship deadlines begin March 1, 2016. Please remind the college students in your life to begin the scholarship application process. They may view all scholarship applications by visiting www.sonsofnorway.com/foundation and clicking on the **Grants and Scholarships** panel. There are currently seven categories of scholarships offered for different areas of study. All Foundation scholarship applications are done online.

St. Patrick's Day Parade - we need you!

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 16th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Kalamazoo takes place Saturday morning, March 12. 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.

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Roger Drong with questions or to reserve resources.

Sons of Norway Hockey Team

Greetings Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway.

Another hockey season is upon us and your local Sons of Norway hockey team is back on the ice for the second half of year four in the league. Once again I have been granted the distinct privilege of leading this team of benders and stick handlers.

This season's roster consists of 14 skaters. We play regularly on Friday or Saturday evenings through the winter at Wings West in Kalamazoo. As always, Lodge members are welcome and encouraged to attend and cheer us on. You can find game times at wingseventcenter.com and clicking recreation/ice schedule. You may also email me directly at terrypingel@gmail.com.

Our team is proud to wear the Norwegian emblem and your heritage on our jersey and sincerely appreciate your sponsorship.

Your organization and affiliation with our hockey team has also opened a personal opportunity for my family. In 2013 I was contacted by Cultural Homestay International, an academic student exchange organization that was seeking to place a student in the Kalamazoo area. In July of 2013 Norwegian Adine Holmvik moved into our home for the school year.

In just one short year Adine became a loving, contributing member of my family. She was also our hockey team's biggest fan.

Adine excelled in school with a 3.95 grade point average. American History was her only hurdle where she earned a respectable A-. She participated in Portage Central's production of *The Sound of Music* and also earned an Honorary Diploma. At graduation she sang a solo - as singing is a passion of hers.

We were proud to sponsor her stay in America and would recommend this experience to anyone. Adine stays in touch regularly and we consider her a sister and daughter now.

She will be visiting us again this spring and we are planning to visit her home in the coming year.

- Sons of Norway Hockey Captain Terry Pingel

Golden Membership for Iona H. Robbins

Curtis A. Cleveland

The International Sons of Norway awarded the Golden Membership Pin and Certificate to Iona H. Robbins on January 5.

Iona, who lives in Colon, is a Charter Member of Askeladden Lodge.

The Golden Membership is awarded to primary and spouse members who are age 65 or older and who have 30 years of membership in the Sons of Norway. The years of membership do not need to be consecutive. Golden members pay half international and half district dues, plus their local lodge dues. (Askeladden does not currently charge local dues.)

Besides Iona, three other members of Askeladden have been awarded the Golden Membership Pin. They are: Margaret Schmieding, Margery Selden, and Sandy Shaffer.

ASKE LADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Recently I was reading an article about ISIS or the Islamic State, the notorious organization that is causing so many problems in the Middle East today.

The writer was discussing historical nations or groups of peoples and how they compare to the ISIS of today. The writer suggested that one such comparison would be the German Nazis under Hitler in the 1930s and 1940s. No question, the German Nazis under Hitler were an evil people, causing untold destruction and deaths to millions of people.

After reading that newspaper article, I wondered, if, a thousand years ago, the peoples of Europe and Asia didn't think that the Vikings, our ancestors, were an evil people.

Historians usually describe the Vikings as a Nordic-seagoing people who caused much "destruction, rape, pillage, and slaughter" to the coastal areas.

As descendants, we know that there is another side to the Vikings. We know that the Vikings eventually settled into the coastal areas, contributing to the development of cities and towns.

The majority of the Nordic people were farmers and craftsmen, not the seagoing or Viking people, who constituted a minority of the population.

After the Nordic people converted from Pagan religion to Christianity under St. Olaf, there was a different mindset in the area. The Viking policies of pillage and killing, which were incompatible with Christianity, ended. Events of 1066 in England had an effect as well.

Where am I going with this article?

We should have pride in our ancestors and families. However, we should be mindful that our ancestors, like any tribe, nationality, or religious group had both a good side and a bad side. There are no perfect people on the globe.

Curtis Cleveland

The Viking Compass

*Kecia Fagerland, Thor Lodge in Minot, ND
from the December 2015 Thor's Hammer newsletter
reprinted with permission*

Editors Note: Thor Lodge member Kecia Fagerland gave a historical and personal presentation at the November social.

Last year during our son Jack's 3rd year at West Point, he was trying to decide what stone to get for his class ring. Should he choose his birthstone? Should he get the same stone as his grandfather's West Point class ring? Representatives from Jostens, the company that makes the corps class rings, met with cadets to help them decide which stone is right for them. They discuss a stone or a gem's characteristics and history. Interestingly, Jack chose a stone that I was unaware of.

Iolite, also known as the Viking compass, has a property known as pleochroism. If you take a piece of clear iolite and cut it into a cube and look at it in different angles in sunlight it can appear to be four different colors. It can be clear, amber, light blue, and/or violet. This is determined by the angle of polarized light from the sun. This was used by the brilliant Viking navigators to find the sun on cloudy or foggy days or even when the sun had gone down below the horizon. It's no wonder that the Vikings were the first Europeans to land on North America - five hundred years before a certain Spaniard who gets all the credit.

Iolite is not a valuable gemstone. It's the poor man's sapphire, kind of like torsk is the poor man's lobster! It is found throughout the world with the largest mined in Wyoming.

Jack chose Iolite as a nod to his Nordic heritage and because of his interest in photonics - part of his electrical engineering studies. Thoughtfully, Jack gifted me with a mothers class ring pendant, so I got to have a little piece of iolite, too.

Trivia: Did you know that the tradition of class rings began at West Point? The United States Military Academy's class of 1835 was the first class to begin wearing the class ring.

Also, the class of 2016's rings are made from the metal of 35 prior graduates' donated class rings and steel from the World Trade Center.

January Meeting Recap

*Curtis Cleveland,
Cultural Committee Chair*

The 13 members and 1 guest who attended the Lodge meeting on January 10 wanted to talk. Members, by show of hands, voted to cancel the Cultural Program on the "St. Olaf Choir," preferring to continue the discussion on the proposed revised guidelines on the Norway Trip Drawing.

After 60 minutes of discussion, the Lodge passed a motion, whereby members have the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed guidelines until March 13. Submit your letters or emails to Joyce Hare, Chair of the Norway Trip Committee.

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

February Birthdays

Crystal Walvoord

Barbara Heffner

Brent Roble

Karen Kunze

Bjørn Thorsrud

Elizabeth Kraatz

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Support Hours worksheets for both fraternal and community hours for 2015 were handed out for members to complete and return to Curtis at the February meeting.

Despite the low turnout (most likely due to the weather) we had an excellent meal, highlighted by a chili (Joyce), a chicken hot dish (Holly), homemade bread with jam and butter (Jean), meatballs, and a salad featuring peas, cheese, sour crème, and greens.

Joyce and Teri, the new Co-Social Directors, were in charge of set up and clean up. Thanks to all who attended.

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



www.sonsofnorway.com

FEBRUAR KALENDER



- Februar 6 - *Samefolkets dag* - Sámi People's Day or Sámi National Day
- Februar 7 - *Fastelavn* - Scandinavian Mardi Gras
- Februar 10 - *Askeonsdag* - Ash Wednesday
- Februar 12 - HH Princess Astrid, 1932
- Februar 14 - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting and program** followed by potluck dinner
4:00 p.m Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge
- Februar 14 - *Morsdag* - Mother's Day in Norway
- Februar 14 - Valentine's Day ♥



- Februar 15 - National Flag Day of Canada



- Februar 15 - President's Day, United States
- Februar 18-21 - American Birkebeiner, Telemark Lodge, Hayward, Wisconsin www.birkie.com
- Februar 19 - Barnebirkie, Hayward, Wisconsin



- Februar 21 - H.M. King Harald V 1937
- Februar 29 - Last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles

Important!

Remember to bring
your completed 2015
Support Hours form
to the February 14
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.