

Askeladden News



ASKELADDEN
LODGE 5-610

February 2025

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Next meeting:

Sunday, February 9, 2025, 2 PM



Kristian Birkeland- Visionary Physicist & Inventor

Guest Speaker: Bob Erlandson

Have you ever wondered why gorgeous auroras of green and purple dance across the night skies? Kristian Birkeland, a visionary Norwegian scientist, spent his life unraveling the mystery behind the northern lights. Born in 1867 in Oslo, Birkeland was driven by an insatiable curiosity that led him to challenge the conventional scientific understanding of his time.

In this month's cultural program, guest speaker Bob Erlandson (retired electrical engineer and member of Restuaration Lodge 1-548 in Cedar Rapids, IA) will share the fascinating science story behind the northern lights. We'll learn how Kristian Birkeland's groundbreaking discoveries about the Earth's magnetism and its interaction with solar winds laid the foundation for modern space weather science. Mr. Erlandson will also highlight Birkeland's accomplishments as an inventor.

Bring a dish to pass as we meet at Trinity Lutheran for February's festive food and fellowship. At 3 p.m. Bob Erlandson will join by Zoom to share Kristian Birkeland's story. The presentation will be followed by a brief business meeting.

February Reminders



- Donations are invited to the Nordic Legacy Foundation at the 2/9 lodge meeting. The NLF is the charitable arm of the Sons of Norway - District 5. It supports Masse Moro, Barnebirkie, D5 Scholarships, and the Adult Heritage Camp. Please write a check to the Nordic Legacy Foundation or give cash. Thanks!
- The language learning group meets Wednesday 2/12 at 10:30 a.m. at Marshall District Library (124 W. Green St, Marshall, MI). We're continuing to use the [Sett i Gang \(3rd edition\) textbook](#). *Alle er velkommen!* ("All are welcome")



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

www.norwayinkalamazoo.com

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Fra Presidenten

Kris Spence

As we step into a new year together, let's take a moment to reflect on the unique bond we share as a community. In a world that often feels busy and chaotic, our monthly gatherings give us a place to connect, share, and celebrate our special Norwegian heritage and the ties that bring us together.

We are excited to begin another year of meetings with you, filled with laughter, learning, and plenty of good company. Whether it's sharing recipes, exploring the language, diving into crafts, or dreaming about travels to Norway, each of us brings something valuable to the table. Of course, there's always the joy of catching up with friends who share a common passion for keeping our traditions alive.

At the heart of Sons of Norway is the belief that through unity and camaraderie, we not only honor our



Source: Restauration Friends Association

In January, the start of the 200th anniversary year of the first organized migration of Norwegians to North America, our first program of the year was in keeping with the tenets of the [200 Crossings](#) initiative. Nineteen people tuned in to experience the in-depth Zoom presentation given by author and Sloop expert Dave Johnson, President of the Norsk Museum in Norway, Illinois.

Dave presented a timeline starting just previous to the famous Restauration sloop making the long journey in 1825 from Stavanger to New York City, a time when Cleng Peerson journeyed back to

Norwegian roots but also strengthen our bonds as a community. Additionally, if are looking to become more involved, I challenge you to bring your ideas and passions to the Lodge meetings. And this is THE year to rekindle that Norwegian heart of your ancestry for the 200th Anniversary of Norwegian emigration to North America.

We had a fantastic historical presentation over Zoom last month from the Norsk Museum (Norway, IL) and there is much more being planned for this year to CELEBRATE this wonderful story lived by our *forfedre* ("forefathers"). We welcome you to join us as often as you can.

I am humbled to serve as this year's president and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Jan. Meeting Recap: Slooper & Norwegian Immigration

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Membership Secretary

Norway to entice people seeking religious freedom and other opportunities to settle in America. Mr. Johnson's presentation gave us a good foundation to start our year of focus on the period of historic immigration. If you missed the program, you can view a recording on our Lodge YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@askeladdenlodge7917>

January 2025 Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Kaaren DeWitt, Karn Erlandson, Karen Hare, Barb Heffner, Holly Jensen, Gwen Meredith, Joan O'Bryan, Curt Osborn, Kris Spence, Laurie Swanson, Robert Swanson, Gail Thompson-Hadley

Guests: Jim Benson, Robert Erlandson, Amy Hayes, Dave Johnson (presenter), Beth Laubenstein

Please contact Membership Secretary Joan O'Bryan with any attendance corrections.

Join the Vikings at the St. Patrick's Day Parade !

We ask you - and your kids! - to join our lodge for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade put on by the Irish American Club of Kalamazoo. The parade is Saturday morning, March 15. We provide the costumes as long as you sign up in advance, making it easy for you to show up and participate. The parade route is only 6 blocks long, but you should consider the walking distance to and from your car, which may be parked some distance away for this popular parade. Sign up at our February meeting or contact Joan O'Bryan. We gather at 10:30 a.m. Parade kickoff is 11 a.m. and is over by noon. Come and join the fun!

Michigan Nordic Fire Festival: Feb 21-23, 2025

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Travel north from SW Michigan to Charlotte on Friday, February 21st, 2025 for the opening of the annual Michigan Nordic Fire Festival if you'd like to celebrate with other Viking enthusiasts and view the burning of a 15 to 20 foot replica Viking ship. Joan O'Bryan and I made the trek to the Nordic Fire Festival two years ago and we had an awesome time of it (see [March 2023 newsletter](#)).

I plan to attend and would encourage our lodge members and friends to join me to view the Friday Viking ship burning and to experience traditional food, mead, and music. On Saturday, I may test my muscles with the axe and spear throwing events and enjoy other activities, displays, and the vendor tents. Check the website for lists of the dozens of local artisans, many with handcrafted Viking era items of wood, metal, leather, fur, glass, ceramic, & cloth, as well as food and elixirs.

<https://www.michigannordicfirefestival.com/>

The Michigan Nordic Fire Festival, according to its website, was first created in 2016 "to celebrate winter, fire, family and fun. As the days start to get longer and days start to warm, we created an opportunity to get outside, throw spears, and try some of the wonderful beers and meads produced in the area."

Tickets for the Nordic Fire Festival are available online but I will wait to buy mine at the gate just in case a blizzard prevents my trip to Charlotte.

Jeg håper å se deg der! I hope to see you there!



2025-26 Myrtle Beinhauer Askeladden Lodge Scholarships

- Members with [college-aged children or grandchildren](#): it's scholarship application time.
- Applications are due by March 15; up to two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded.
- The application form is here <http://bit.ly/3rAZ6uT> See also the [scholarship tab of the Lodge website](#).
- Contact Jeff Andert at (269) 967-1311 or jnandert@comcast.net for questions.



Februar Kalendar

- 2/6 *Samenes Nasjonaldag* - Sámi National Day
- 2/9 Askeladden Lodge Mtg, 2 PM**
- 2/9 *Morsdag* - Mother's Day (Norway)
- 2/12 Norsk language group, 10:30 AM
(Marshall District Library)
- 2/12 HH Princess Astrid (1932)
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/15 National Flag Day (Canada)
- 2/17 Presidents' Day (U.S.)
- 2/20 BarneBirkie & Barkie Birkie ski races
(Hayward, WI)
- 2/21 H.M. King Harald V (1937)
- 2/21-23 Michigan Nordic Fire Festival (Charlotte)
- 2/22 American Birkebeiner ski race
(Hayward, WI)
- 2/23 Last day to submit Feb. newsletter articles

February Birthdays

Gratulerer med dagen til:

Crystal Walvoord
Barbara Heffner
Brent Roble
Karen Kunze

Elizabeth Kraatz
Gail Thompson-
Hadley
Gabiella Kroce



Norske ord

Jeg elsker deg! ("Yie *EL*Sker die") =
I love you!

Takk for sjokoladen! ("Tock for shockoLAden") =
Thanks for the chocolate!

Du er min sol ("Dew are minn sole") =
You are my sunshine.



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.



Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

2024 Service Hours Needed

Karen Hare, Secretary

Each year, Sons of Norway Lodges are required to report their Community and Fraternal Service Hours. In 2024, this reporting changed in the Lodge to being compiled monthly versus annually with the Individual Tracking Sheet. This sheet is distributed by the Secretary at our Lodge meetings and can also be found by clicking [here](#). Bookmark this location for easy use throughout the year.

If you haven't already submitted your 2024 monthly hours, please provide an annual 2024 estimate by March 8th. Send them to Karen Hare (astutekaren@gmail.com). Many thanks!

Here are the categories:

Community Support: serving on an Askeladden committee or project that served the local community, such as the Scholarship Committee; parades, food drives; attendance at Lodge sponsored Ice Hockey Team games or Kalamazoo Skating Association competitions.

Fraternal Support: Attending a lodge meeting in-person or via Zoom; helping to plan a Lodge program or event; or if you provided other services such as preparing reports, attending / preparing language classes, website generation, publicity, contributing to the Newsletter, contacting members; Audit Committee, etc.

