

Askeladden News



SONS of
NORWAY

ASKELADDEN
LODGE 5-610

September 2025

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Next event

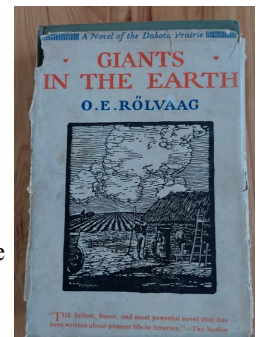
Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church
“Giants in the Earth” presentation by Gail Thompson-Hadley

In October this year, Norwegian-Americans will commemorate the 1825 first organized journey of Norwegian emigrants to America 200 years ago.

On April 27, 2025, Gail journeyed to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for a revival by the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra of the Pulitzer-winning 1951 opera based on Ole Rolvaag's epic 1927 novel of Norwegian-American pioneers, "Giants in the Earth." Rolvaag based his story on what he learned about his wife's grandparents' lives from a time just a few dozen years after those Restoration emigrants had arrived in America.

The robust symphony music, vibrant singing, historical costumes, and an entrancing video stage background brought Rolvaag's story to life.

Please join us on Sunday, September 14th, when Gail will share her reactions to the opera as well as what she learned about Ole Rolvaag from 3 of his grandchildren who rode the bus with the group for 4 hours each way from Minneapolis to Sioux Falls and back!



We will meet at Trinity Lutheran Church (504 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo) at 2 p.m. for our potluck meal and social time followed by the program. Lodge members are requested to stay for a business meeting after the program when we will solicit volunteers for our big October 8th dinner theatre event.



Reminders



- **Norsk Language learning resumes:** The group will meet 10:30 a.m. on 9/24 at the Marshall District Library. Chapters 1 & 2 of *Sett i Gang* will be reviewed.
- **October meeting time change:** Next month's business meeting, including the Norway trip drawing, will take place on 10/5 at 1 p.m. in Trinity's Lounge (floor above the fellowship hall). Afterwards, we'll join Vasa for their annual fish boil.

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



www.norwayinkalamazoo.com



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Fra Presidenten

Kris Spence

Storytelling has a long history, both oral and written, in Norway. The ancient folk tales and myths famously feature characters such as the underdog hero, Askeladden, as well as trolls, polar bears, kings, and princesses. It is fun to share and celebrate these stories even today. As we come back together this fall, we are gathering to become **community storytellers** spreading the word of the courageous and hopeful Norwegian immigrants from the 19th century.

This September's Lodge meeting includes one such immigrant story. Join us for a potluck and Gail Thompson-Hadley's talk about Norwegian-Americans in the Dakota prairies of 150 years ago in the "Giants in the Earth" book and opera.

On October 8th, we have the opportunity to tell our broadest audience yet about the audacious journey of 52 immigrants who made their way to the USA over the choppy Atlantic 200 years ago. By sharing this story in our sold-out *Fjord to Frontier* event, we help kick off the local America 250 recognitions with a true immigrant chronicle from our own shared heritage. And we're pairing the commemoration with food – what could be more Norwegian?!

Please participate by signing up to bring cookies or treats to our special October 8th event. Thank you for all you do to make our Lodge a success!



August Event Recap- Ice Cream Social Enjoyed By Many

Joan O'Bryan, Membership Secretary

Fifteen members and two guests experienced a lovely afternoon at Goguac Lake in Battle Creek for our August gathering. Mange takk to our hosts Diane and Jeff Andert for once again organizing this event and hosting us at their beautiful lakeside home! It was so nice gathering together on a sunny August day with our friends -- and a couple of friendly furry friends as well.

The Anderts' grandkids (both Heritage members) wore gorgeous bunads -- and the beautiful dogs came uniquely dressed for the party as well. Holly brought a delicious angel food cake with strawberries to accompany the ice cream.

John Gratz, who had just returned from an extended stay in Norway, brought Freia Melkesjokolade and Firkløver (hazelnut) bars for us to sample. What an unexpected treat!

August 2025 Askeladden Members attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Karen Hare, Holly Jensen, Joan O'Bryan, Audrey Renoos, Kris Spence, Laurie Swanson, Robert Swanson, Gail Thompson Hadley, Astrid Willis, and Heritage Members: Malin and Rorik Andert
Guests: John Gratz, Mary Mahuren

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

Norway Trip Policy Update

Kris Spence, President

Starting with this year's drawing, the Lodge is making a couple of thoughtful adjustments to help keep our Lodge financially healthy for years to come—while still offering the programs we all love. As part of that, the annual Norway Trip Drawing will continue, with an updated award amount: \$2,000 for winners traveling with a beneficiary, or \$1,500 for solo travelers.

These updates will apply to trips awarded after October 1, 2025. The spirit of the trip remains the same—an amazing opportunity to explore our heritage and connect with Norway.

Norway Trip Drawing Deadline

Joan O'Bryan, Membership Secretary

You are reminded: Under our Lodge's established Norway Trip drawing rules, if you want to be considered for the October 2025 drawing, you must submit your request in writing (email to joan.obryan@wmich.edu is preferable) to the Membership Secretary by the September meeting.

If you would like more information about our annual trip drawing, consider becoming a member of our Lodge, or attend an event to find out more. Members can contact the Membership Secretary for a copy of the current policy.

Cookie Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to bake and deliver cookies to the Portage Zhang Senior Center for the Oct. 8th Fjord to Frontier dinner theatre. The event is **SOLD OUT**, so we need to provide dessert for 100 guests. You can help us whether or not you're attending the play!

Please e-mail Elizabeth Kraatz (kraatz@gmail.com) if you can provide a treat.



- **What's needed?** Baked cookies, cake, bars or treats that don't require refrigeration or special handling (they don't have to be a Norwegian recipe, yet if they are that's great too!).
- **When?** Deliver your cookies to the PZSC at 203 E. Centre Ave, Portage on Wednesday, Oct. 8th between 8am – 2pm
- **What if I'm attending the play?** If you have tickets for the play and will be bringing cookies, please plan to arrive 20-30 minutes early so that volunteers have time to plate the cookies before the event starts at 5 p.m.
- **Questions** about the cookies – contact Elizabeth Kraatz or Karn Erlandson

Thanks for doing your part to make the dinner theatre event a successful story for Askeladden Lodge!



September Kalender

- 9/2 Labor Day
- 9/14 Askeladden Lodge Meeting, 2 p.m.**
- 9/22 HH Princess Märtha Louise Birthday
- 9/24 Norsk language group, 10:30 a.m. (Marshall District Library)
- 9/24 Last day to submit Oct. newsletter articles
- 10/5 Fish Boil with Vasa, 1 p.m.**
- 10/8 Fjord to Frontier dinner theatre, 5 p.m.**
(Portage Zhang Senior Centre)

September Birthdays Gratulerer med dagen til:

Earnie Best	Samuel Lee
Astrid Code	Gwen Meredith
Mai Code	Luke O'Bryan
Lucie Darling	Beverly Osborn
Kerry DeWitt	Elizabeth Sherman
Elaine Erickson	Larry Skutnick
Evelyn Iverson	Richard Wesenberg
Holly Jensen	Astrid Willis



Norske ord

Er familien din fra Norge? (Are fahMEELyen din frah NORgeh?) = Is your family from Norway?

Innvandrerne var modige. (innVAHN-drahnay var MOOdee-eh) = The immigrants were brave.



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.



SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

September Centennial Celebration

The year 2025 marks the centennial of the birth of Margery Stomne Selden (b. September 5, 1925), a distinguished pianist and composer. Dr. Selden was a beloved longtime member of Askeladden Lodge. In celebration of her legacy, a selection of her sacred music, newly arranged for oboe d'amore and piano, was premiered at a salon concert hosted by the Ladies' Library Association of Kalamazoo in honor of International Women's Day in March. Though her musical journey reached audiences far beyond, Selden made Kalamazoo her home in her later years, where her artistry and influence continues to inspire.

Listen to her music on Askeladden's Youtube page at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVxbgphf24Y>