

Askeladden News



ASKELOADDEN
LODGE 5-610

March 2026

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Next meeting

Sunday, Mar. 8, 2026, 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church
“Women’s Work” in Historical Resistance Movements

Join our monthly potluck with Scandinavian enthusiasts at Trinity Lutheran Church (504 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo) on **Sunday, March 8th at 2 p.m.** A presentation by guest and non-profit leader Bree Bird about women’s contributions to historic resistance movements will follow the meal.

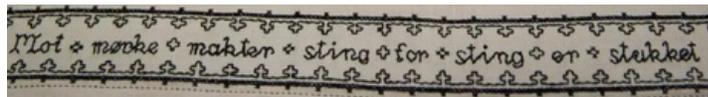


A 1940s tablecloth made by Norwegian “guerilla embroiderer” Caroline Moe. It has coffee stains from use at a celebration of Hitler's death.

When you think of the Norwegian Resistance during the second World War, what image pops into your head? We’ll bet it’s not the image of a woman demurely embroidering a tablecloth or knitting a cap. But both were important means of boosting morale and showing defiance – a defiance that sometimes was below the awareness threshold of the Nazis, but was the equivalent of a banging gong to fellow Norwegians who could detect the encoded intent and cultural context. Women have employed the “feminine arts” in the service of resistance movements throughout history. The birth of our own United States 250 years ago was spurred on by spinning bees, boycotts and tea parties organized by women. Bree Bird will present a program highlighting the role of the womanly arts in resistance movements throughout history.

Bree Bird is the co-founder of “The Guild,” an all-volunteer-led nonprofit organization in Kalamazoo that works to remove items from the waste stream through creative re-use. A list of requested donation items to help the Guild establish the space they envision is available on their website (www.guildkalamazoo.org); **if you have gently used crafting items that you would like to donate, please bring them with you to the meeting.**

It is hoped that, after learning from Bree Bird’s presentation, the image that will pop into your mind when asked about the Norwegian Resistance will be a guerilla embroiderer and not just a young man skiing through the darkness!



“Against dark forces, stitch by stitch is stabbed”

March Reminders



- Applications for the Askeladden Lodge Myrtle Beinhauer College Scholarships for 2026-27 are due 3/15- see page 3 for details.



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

www.norwayinkalamazoo.com



facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Fra Presidenten

Jeff Andert

We begin a new year for our lodge enthusiastically. We can all be pleased coming off a year of our usual events along with a unique celebration of the 200th anniversary of Norwegian emigration. The October Fjord to Frontier dinner theatre performance of *The Uprooting* was a highly successful tribute to the journeys of our ancestors to America. Like many of our lodge events, it was the product of many. Our lodge membership is stable and our financial status stable. We have a value of sharing with others.

Thank you to Past President Kris Spence, his Board of Directors and all of our volunteers who “make things happen.” (I fear I will omit someone if I name each individually.) The organization is being passed on in good order. There is an established calendar of events which hopefully provides something for everyone throughout the year.

Growing up in Minnesota, Diane and I were certainly aware of Sons of Norway as each of our parents were members. However, it was not until we were empty nesters that we

sought out our local SON lodge here in Michigan. We joined shortly before COVID and were pleased when the in-person activities resumed. The lodge has enhanced our interest and knowledge of the joint ancestry we share. It would be hard to quantify all we have learned about Norway because of SON. We appreciate the friendships we have made, the fun activities, laughter and FOOD. It is our goal to spread the word to include family and friends of Norwegian heritage in this experience.

Thank you for your confidence in assigning leadership for this year. As we all know, the success of any organization depends on the participation of all and leadership of many in different ways. Askeladden is fortunate to have members who make certain our events occur. My appreciation to the 2026 Board of Directors, Supporting Officers and Committee members as I look forward to working together.

Tusen Takk !

Feb. 8th Event Recap- Norway Meets America

Joan O'Bryan, Membership Secretary

We enjoyed a special presentation by author Margrethe Hoff. She delivered a fascinating tale about how her father, as a young Norwegian, experienced the Nazi occupation of Norway. At age 17, he managed a daring escape to Sweden – away from his family. Margrethe's American mom moved to Norway after the war. She worked at the Embassy, where the two of them met and fell in love. They were married in Nidaros Cathedral and later moved to the USA. Margrethe's presentation kept everyone captivated. Afterward, we had the opportunity to talk with her personally and also purchase her recent book *Norway Meets America*. The book is available in multiple formats on Amazon.com. Margrethe personally signed our books.



Recognizing that the second Sunday of February is Mother's Day in Norway, Elizabeth Kraatz gave all the moms beautiful flower arrangements in little baskets she decorated with a Rosemale design.

February 8, 2026, Askeladden member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Kaaren DeWitt, Karn Erlandson, Karen Hare, Holly Jensen, Teri Koretsky. Elizabeth Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Sandra Santas, Kris Spence, Laurie Swanson, Robert Swanson

In addition to Margrethe and her husband, James, who were here in person, a number of Visitors (members of other lodges) and invited guests attended the presentation by Zoom. The Zoom session was recorded and will be published on our Lodge YouTube channel soon.

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

Join us for the St. Patrick's Day Parade !

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, St. Pat's Parade Coordinator

Askeladden members and friends will invade downtown Kalamazoo on Saturday, March 14, by marching in the Irish American Club's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Our unit is signed up to march dressed as Vikings and we are looking for a volunteer to be our Troll. The parade route is 4 blocks long. Our staging area will be on W Exchange Place near the rear of the Lennon Miller/Comerica Building and accessible by foot from Rose Street. Everyone should be on site and in costume by 10:30 a.m. (Burdick Street at the Mall entrance on Michigan will be closed to traffic at 9 a.m.). You can wear your own Viking costume or grab our gear. Sign up to participate in the parade at our March meeting or contact Joan as soon as possible if you and/or your children want to march with us. We will be finished by noon. Participation in this parade is a qualifying special event for the Norway Trip drawing.

Norwegian Language Learning Group Meets March 11

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

The language learning group will meet on Wednesday, March 11 at 10:30 am at the Marshall District Library (124 W Green Street, Marshall MI). The class will pick up where it left off - exercise I on page 38 of the *Sett i Gang* - book 1 (3rd ed) textbook. The textbook is available for purchase in

both a print (\$62.99) and an electronic (\$32.99) edition from Settigang.com. A Zoom link will be sent out to those who have expressed interest shortly before the class. If you are interested in joining by Zoom, please contact Membership Secretary Joan O'Bryan.

2026 Askeladden Lodge Myrtle Beinhauer College Scholarships

It's that time of year to start thinking about scholarships for next year. If you have children or grandchildren starting college or continuing as an undergraduate student, they can be considered for a scholarship awarded by Askeladden Lodge. Our 2026 budget allows for two \$1000 unrestricted scholarships to be awarded to up to two qualifying students, so make sure your membership dues are up to date. The Scholarship Committee has released the 2026 application and scholarship guidelines, which are available on the Askeladden website at <https://www.norwayinkalamazoo.com/scholarships> and also at <https://bit.ly/3rAZ6uT>.

Applications are due by March 15th. Contact Kris Spence via the gmail account kspence7485@gmail.com for questions.



Mars Kalender

- 3/8 International Women's Day
- 3/8 Daylight savings time begins at 2 a.m.
- 3/8 Askeladden Lodge Mtg, 2 p.m.**
- 3/9 Commonwealth Day (Canada)
- 3/11 Norsk language group, 10:30 a.m.**
(Marshall District Library)
- 3/15 Askeladden Lodge scholarships deadline**
- 3/15 District 5 scholarships deadline
- 3/15 Kalamazoo St. Patrick's Day Parade**
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 Vårjevndøgn - Vernal Equinox, 1st Day of Spring
- 3/30 Last day to submit Apr. newsletter articles

Mars Birthdays

Gratulerer med dagen til:

Richard Adams	Dawn McLaughlin
Kristy Ambrosen	Joan O'Bryan
Diane Andert	Audrey Renoos
Esther Brown	Margaret Schmieding
Druanna Darling	Andrew Sherman
Arden Hetletvedt	Christina Sherman
Ronald Lee	David Sherman
	Esden Stafne



Norske ord

Husk grønt ("Hoosk grunt") = Remember green

Velkommen, vår ! ("VELLkohm-men, VORE) =
Welcome, spring !



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

Volunteer Service Hours Forms Are Due March 8th

Each year, Sons of Norway Lodges are required to report their Community and Fraternal Service Hours. To compile this information, the Individual Tracking Sheet is handed out by the Lodge Secretary at Business Meetings for member's completion and can also be found [here](#) (or visit the [Membership/ Contacts tab](#) of our Lodge website). Please bookmark this location for easy use throughout the year!

Your service hours are vital to the fulfillment of the Sons of Norway's status as a non-profit fraternal organization. Should you have questions or wish to submit your hours, please do so to Karen at astutekaren@gmail.com by March 8th. Tusen Tak!



2026 Askeladden Board of Directors

Karen Hare, Curtis Cleveland, Jeff Andert, Elizabeth Kraatz, Bob Swanson, Joan O'Bryan