

# Askeladden News



ASKELOADDEN  
LODGE 5-610

June/July 2026

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## Next event

**Saturday June 20, 2026 at the Jensen residence**

***Midsommar Celebration with Vasa Swedish-American Lodge***

Celebrate Michigan's summer splendor with a afternoon in Holly Jensen's gorgeous garden! Vasa Swedish-American Lodge is throwing a Midsommar party in true Nordic style and has invited us to be a part of the Summer Solstice celebration! Enjoy great food, music, dancing, yard games, and flower crown making for all ages. Help decorate the flower & greenery-covered May pole starting at noon.

**Where:** The home of Holly and Rick Jensen. 1453 S. Spruce Drive, Kalamazoo MI. The street has a steep hill, so park (and parking brake) accordingly. Look for Norwegian and Swedish flags on the white house.

**What to bring:** A dish to share (keep it picnic-y), shoes for the grass, and your smile! Ditch daisies and similar garden/ greenery cuttings are welcome too!

Shade from the sun, and the house & porch in case of rain have us 'covered.'  
Call Holly with your questions: (269) 598-5523.



## June/ July Reminders



- The **online-only Norsk language learning group** (with Nordkap Lodge) meets 6/11 and 6/25 at 7:30 p.m by Zoom. Folks who have been language learning in-person at the Marshall District Library are invited as well.
- After the June meetings, language learners are taking a summer break (keep practicing)!



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

[www.norwayinkalamazoo.com](http://www.norwayinkalamazoo.com)



[facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge](https://facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge)

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## Fra Presidenten: Lefse Limericks

Jeff Andert

Gary Legwold of Minneapolis calls himself, “The Lefse King.” He promotes all things lefse, including instruction, books and various cooking items. We became familiar with Gary when Diane took a virtual lefse making lesson a few winters back. In his promotion of lefse, Gary started an annual Lefse Limerick Contest six years ago. He awards prizes of rolling pins, turning sticks, etc. All of this year’s award winners can be viewed on his website: <https://lefseking.com>. I thought you’d appreciate some of this year’s top entries from around the country.

Perhaps we have some poets in Askeladden who would like to celebrate lefse in next year’s contest? Looking forward to our next gathering! Have a good summer!

*It seems the world has need of late  
For one of Lefse’s hidden traits.  
There’s always some Hope  
To help you to cope  
When you add a warm round to your plate.*

*If your Hope’s bound up, not grooving  
And you dream of the future improving,  
When taken as tonic  
Just like a colonic  
Warm Lefse can keep your life moving.*

~1<sup>st</sup> Place – Dave Nadaskay, Fort Worth, Texas~

*Good Lefse is God’s comfort food,  
It mellows a bad attitude.  
It gives you real hope,  
Endorsed by the Pope  
And gives life an uplifted mood.*

*An item of faith is the spud  
When planted each spring in the mud.  
With Lefse’s the goal  
It lifts up your soul,  
With hope nipping dread in the bud.*

~1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jim Leet, Roseburg, Oregon~

*Sven came to the end of his rope  
All the girls in his life told him “nope.”  
On his dates he was bringin’  
Fresh lefse and lington  
Ain’t workin’, but Sven lives in hope.*

*They say that it’s darkest ‘ere dawn.  
If you fear that all hope is gone,  
Don’t let the light sputter  
Eat lefse with butter  
And all will be better, anon.*

~2<sup>nd</sup> – Jim Gambucci, Minneapolis, Minnesota~

## May 17th Event Recap- Syttende Mai Celebration

Karn Erlandson, Askeladden News Editor

It was a beautiful summer day for our 17.Mai celebration, perfect for a *barnetog* around Trinity (most of us qualified as kids in spirit rather than in chronology). We enjoyed a delicious hot dog picnic with all the Nordic fixin’s that included lefse and shrimp salad. Rømmegrøt, Nanaimo bars and other yummy sweet treats accompanied the traditional ice cream. Quite a few Vasa members joined us, which added to the festive spirit. We sang our hearts out for all the anthems, Elizabeth Kraatz enlightened us on the history of Norway’s many flags and national songs, and we toasted King Harald with sparkling cider. We also collected food and monetary donations for local food banks. Thanks to everyone who helped plan and present this party!

May 17, 2026, Askeladden member attendance: Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Karen Hare, Holly Jensen, Teri Koretsky, Elizabeth Kraatz, James Kraatz, Joan O’Bryan, Abigail Renoos, Daniel Renoos, Sandra Santas, Helen Spence, Kris Spence, Laurie Swanson, Robert Swanson.

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

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## Askeladden Lodge Historic Mementoes Exhibit

Curtis Cleveland, Lodge Historian

Lodge members who attended the May 17th celebration had the opportunity to look at and read some of the historical documents and mementoes that the lodge has received over the years.

The oldest memento in the exhibit was the Recognition Notebook from the Gilmore Piano Festival for our sponsorship of the 1998 Gilmore Piano Festival. The 1998 Gilmore Artist was Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andnes.

Other highlights included an Appreciation Plaque from the 2011-2012 Sons of Norway Hockey Team to thank us for our sponsorship. The plaque features a photo of the team.

The most recent documents were two Proclamations from the mayors of Kalamazoo and Portage in recognition of the 2025 Syttende Mai and 200 years of Norwegian immigration.

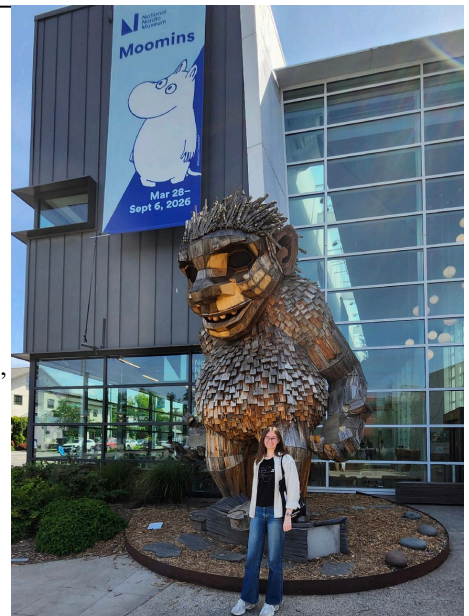
The largest document displayed was the Special Tribute from the Michigan Legislature dated September 8, 2013, in recognition of the 25th Anniversary of Askeladden Lodge. This document was presented by then State Representative Aric Nesbitt. It is signed by former Governor Rick Snyder, Congressman Fred Upton, State Representatives Aric Nesbitt and Sean McCann, and State Senators Margaret O'Brien and Tonya Schuitmaker.

## National Nordic Museum Review

Kris Spence, Publicity Chair

As you approach the National Nordic Museum in Seattle you are greeted by a friendly, 22 foot tall reclaimed-wood troll by artist Thomas Dambo. The new building, opened in 2018, has an open atrium the complete length of the building to represent fjords. The permanent collection on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is mostly descriptive panels and artifacts (often replicas) summarizing the record of the Nordic region from the prehistoric to present day. Our family favorite was the special exhibit on Moomins focused on creator Tove Jansson's love of the sea. It included 40 minutes of home movies (1970s to 1990s), photos, and artwork from her books, plus an immersive reading area with a boat and rock cushions.

Freya Café on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor is counter service yet offers delicious and satisfying salads, soup and smørbrød. If you are in the Seattle area it is worth stopping by for lunch and gift shopping.



## Juni/ Juli Kalender

- 6/5 *Grundlovsdag* - Constitution Day (Denmark)
- 6/6 *Sveriges nasjonaldag* (Swedish National Day)
- 6/7 *Unionisoppløsningen* (Norway-Sweden Union dissolved, 1905)
- 6/17 *Islands nasjonaldag* (Icelandic National Day)
- 6/19 Juneteenth
- 6/20 Midsommar with Vasa, 12 p.m. (H. Jensen house)**
- 6/21 Father's Day
- 7/1 Canada Day
- 7/4 U.S. Independence Day
- 7/4 HM Queen Sonja's Birthday
- 7/20 HRH Crown Prince Haakon Magnus' Birthday
- 7/31 Last day to submit an article for August newsletter

## Juni/ Juli Birthdays

Gratulerer med dagen til:

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Rorick Andert   | Eleanor Erickson   |
| Kjell Croce     | Terese Sherman     |
| Kaaren DeWitt   | Kaeler Stafne      |
| Abe Erickson    | Laurie Swanson     |
|                 |                    |
| Karin Code      | Jonathan Platt     |
| Carolyn Hande   | Shawn Platt        |
| Teri Koretsky   | River Reich        |
| Sondra Phillips | Gretchen Wesenberg |
| Clarence Platt  |                    |



# SONS of NORWAY

*Askeladden Lodge 5-610*

507 Clinton Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001



## **Food & Fund Drive for Local Food Banks**

Curtis Cleveland, Treasurer

At the 17.Mai Celebration, members devoted part to the meeting to helping less fortunate community members. Thirty-eight pounds of nonperishable food were collected at the meeting for Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. Monetary donations totaling \$435 were given to food banks that serve SW Michigan: Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes (\$185), South Michigan Food Bank in Battle Creek (\$175), and Feeding America: West Michigan in Grand Rapids (\$75).

Many thanks to all who participated in the Food Drive and Food Bank Campaign. In November, we will hold a similar event.