



the ASKELADDEN news

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

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

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

April 2023

04-23

Meetings:

Sept - April: 2nd Sundays, 2 p.m.

May only: 3rd Sunday, 2 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Officers:

President: Gail Thompson-Hadley

(269) 845-2265

glthadley@gmail.com

Vice-President/Editor/Acting

Membership Secretary:

Joan O'Bryan

507 Clinton Avenue

Kalamazoo, MI 49001

(269) 383-6802

joan.obryan@wmich.edu

Secretary: Karen Hare

(269) 568-9797

astutekaren@gmail.com

Newsletter Publisher: Judy

Hande-Skutnick

(269) 903-8386

jhandeskutnick@gmail.com

Treasurer: Curtis Cleveland

(269) 381-4531

cacleve82@att.net

Cultural Director:

Elizabeth Kraatz

(573) 999-1113

KraatzE@gmail.com

Affiliation:

Sons of Norway International

1455 West Lake St.

Minneapolis, MN 55408

Cheryl Wille - Schlessor, President,

Sons of Norway District 5

Bill Bultinck

Director, District 5 Zone 6

dist5zone6@gmail.com

Benefits Counselor:

Greg Ragan

(815) 623-8817

gragan51@gmail.com

www.raganfinancialgroup.com

Lodge contact info:

Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com

(269) 350-3330

Sunday, April 2 (First Sunday), 2 p.m.

Joint meeting with Vasa

Påskris

Trinity Lutheran Church

The spring season is a time to bring the outdoors inside in Norway. Easter traditions, new and old, gathered from the yard or purchased at the market.

Please join us Sunday, April 2, in the Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall as we get crafty making our own Påskris (pōs-kreese); Scandinavian Easter branches. It's family-friendly, and you can take your 'tree' home with you to celebrate the return of spring!

NOTE: April's second Sunday is Easter.

The fun begins at 2 p.m. by selecting your Birch twigs and 'setting' them in cups with liquid Plaster of Paris. As the plaster gets hard, we can enjoy our potluck Smörgåsbord fika.

Following our meal, and with our twigs set in the plaster, it is on with getting nature-crafty as Holly Jensen shares the spring customs (including the begging Witches) of Norway and Sweden. To decorate your Påskris, there will be colorful feathers and hollow chicken eggs. Bring a friend, young and old, as we sweep away the darkness of winter.

Please bring a dish to pass for our shared meal. Coffee, water, and table service will be provided. After the meal, we will immediately proceed with our Easter craft, followed by an Ad Hoc committee meeting of those who would like to help plan our May 21 Syttende Mai celebration.

Please note that **there is a new entrance at the back of the church** to our downstairs meeting area. There is an elevator if needed.



ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Member Spotlight Welcome new members!

Askeladden Lodge extends a warm welcome to our newest members:

- **Ronald Lee**, a transfer member from Arctic Circle Lodge 6-662 in Akron, Ohio
- **Dawn McLaughlin**, of Kingsley, Michigan (sister to Askeladden members Joan O'Bryan & Dan Renoos)

We are thrilled these long-distance members have chosen to join our lodge! Velkommen!

Vikings invade downtown Kalamazoo!

Nine lodge members and one young Viking gathered in March to help Kalamazoo celebrate a favorite holiday. Our distinctive Troll remains popular and we heard cheers rise up for our unit several times along the way.



We don't have a single photo this year with everyone it it - and some of us are in the shadows!



Lodge members participating included Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Christine Hadley, Joan O'Bryan, Dan Renoos with Heritage Member Abby, Helen Spence, Kris Spence, Gail Thompson-Hadley and Gail's young grandson. Holly Jensen provided our elaborate Viking Boat and Troll costumes. We could not participate in the parade without Holly's care and expertise!

God Påske!

Easter is one of Norway's biggest holidays, just as big as Christmas. The entire country seems to shut down during the week of Easter to enjoy the holiday with family, friends and nature. The Norwegians' idea of having a god påske consists of hiding away up in the mountains, skiing the last available snow or basking in a wall of early spring sunshine known as solveggen.

Påskeaften, Easter Eve on Holy Saturday is the big day of celebration. Children get to open colorful Easter eggs filled with candy, families organize ski races and hikes in the mountains and the biggest meal of the week concludes the day with Easter lamb or chicken.

Easter Sunday gets underway with a special breakfast at the family hytte or at home, sometimes followed by church. It is common to enjoy homemade Easter bread on Sunday. Pastel-colored Easter bunnies, chickens, daffodils and eggs cover the table to set the mood. No Easter break is complete without the popular påskekrim (Easter crime) novel.

March meeting recap: Hjemkomst Video

Joan O'Bryan, Acting Membership Secretary

Thirteen Askeladden Lodge members and two guests enjoyed a wonderful spread of food, which included Quiche, Salmon Noodle Casserole, Butternut Squash & Apple soup, cold cuts, Banana-Cranberry bread, and a couple of delicious desserts, among other tasty dishes. We watched the moving documentary about the Hjemkomst - the tremendous effort to build it and the journey a very brave crew took through the turbulent Great Lakes and then across the Atlantic Ocean all the way to Norway! We ended with a business meeting where we covered some necessary topics. We were thrilled to meet a local Norwegian who happened to notice our presence in the parade the day before. We enjoyed meeting him and hope he returns in the future!

March 2023 Askeladden Member attendance: Curtis Cleveland, Kjell Croce, Karn Erlandson, Judy Hande-Skutnick, Karen Hare, Arden Hetlevedt, Holly Jensen, Teri Koretsky, Joan O'Bryan, Beverly Osborn, Curt Osborn, Kris Spence, Astrid Willis Guests: *Ruth Hetlevedt and Jason Mikkelsen*.

Please contact Joan O'Bryan with any attendance corrections.

World's First Fully Electric Public Transit System

By the end of 2023, Norway plans to have the world's-first fully electric public transit system in its capital city. The city of Oslo has invested in 450 electric buses to replace the remaining diesel-fueled buses. The city already has 200 electric buses in operation. While the upfront costs of US \$51.3 million are higher than the price of diesel buses, they believe there will be great long-term savings as electric buses have lower maintenance and operation costs. The public transport authority for Oslo is also confident that the new buses will be more comfortable and quieter for passengers. This move is expected to not only reduce emissions but also improve public health by reducing air pollution. Oslo already has electrified trains, trams and ferries.

It is part of Oslo's grand plan to be emissions-free by 2030. Many would say they are on the right track as electric vehicles now outnumber gas cars on Oslo's roads. While cities lead the way in reducing emissions, Norway has become a "global pioneer for the green transportation revolution," and is the world's top-selling electric-vehicle market per capita. And the Norwegian Parliament has decided that all new cars sales and vans shall be emission-free by 2025.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Nordic Summer Festivals

Askeladden Lodge was well-represented in the recent Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Parade coordinator, Joan O'Bryan, helped us find our various costumes of fur, "leather," spears, and horned helmets, and the cardboard Viking ships, which Holly Jensen, long-time Askeladden parade chief, had constructed herself. Those of us who braved the cold wind and snow at the March 2022 parade were especially thankful the parade day this year was blessed with relatively warm temperatures for March in SW Michigan and gloriously bright blue skies. The beautiful weather led to a large crowd of spectators.

I heard appreciation for our youngest with comments like, "Oh, look at that little Viking!" Lodge member Dan Renoos brought his 5-year-old daughter and Christine Hadley brought her 4-year-old son so we did have a 3-generation span among our Askeladden marchers. College freshman Helen Spence carried our Sons of Norway banner and guided her mother, Karn Erlandson, who had limited visibility inside the crowd-favorite giant Troll costume. Curtis Cleveland, Kris Spence, and Joan O'Bryan navigated our Viking ships, and Dan Renoos proudly carried their family's flag from Norway.

Norwegian Language Class: the ten of us who gathered at the Marshall Public Library on March 15th for our first session made a great start with our teacher, Astrid Willis, and zoom session led by Elizabeth Kraatz. Astrid had prepared folders of practice materials for us printed from the Sons of Norway language lessons. [Norwegian Language Lessons | Sons of Norway](#) Please join us for our next sessions even if you weren't able to make the first one: Wednesday's on April 5, April 26, and May 24, 10:30 to 11:30, Marshall Public Library. A link will be sent Tuesday before the session to our member email list for those who would like to join us via zoom. Non-members can contact our lodge to request the link.

Joan and I had a terrific time at the Michigan Nordic Fire Festival the end of February and it turns out there are numerous other Viking-era festivals scheduled around Michigan this summer.

Marshall has its own Royal Stagg Renaissance Faire **May 13 & 14** [Home \(royalstagg.com\)](http://royalstagg.com) Return to medieval times at the **Niles Renaissance Fair, May 20 & 21.**

[Home NilesRenaissanceFair\(nilesrenaissancefaire.com\)](http://HomeNilesRenaissanceFair(nilesrenaissancefaire.com))

Journey down to **Lake Orion's Canterbury Village, June 3 & 4, and June 10 & 11**, for a Viking and Renaissance Faire **About - Canterbury Medieval Faire** (canterburyvillagemedievalfaire.com)

Find Medieval and Renaissance entertainers and vendors in **Charlotte, June 3 & 4**, at the **Magical Realm Fantasy Faire**. [More about our faire, our story and our characters - The Magical Realm](#)

Head up to **Holland, Michigan June 23 and 24** for the second annual **Holland Waterfront Celtic Festival & Highland Games - Holland, Michigan's newest annual festival!** (hollandcelticfestival.org). The Holland Festival will include Friday night Irish dance and music with Saturday Highland Games. Vendors will have Celtic woolens, clothing, jewelry, food and liquid libations for sale with music and dance performances on two stages all day. There will be a children's activity area and also on-site genealogy help.

The *Michigan Renaissance Festival* in **Holly** runs for 7 weekends from **August 19 – October 1** with a full village of entertainers and 100 vendors.

Please join us at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 2nd, when Holly Jensen will guide Askeladden and Vasa members and friends in making Scandinavian Easter decorations. Then we'll hope to see you on Sunday, May 21st for our Syttende Mai celebration.

Gail Thompson-Hadley



Helen Spence holds Lodge banner with Troll mom, Karn Erlandson



Kris Spence ready to sail off in his Viking Ship. Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Pipe & Drum Corps waiting to march off before us.



Great family turnout for enjoying our youngest Vikings



Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

APRIL KALENDER

- april 2 - **Askeladden Joint Program with Vasa - Påske craft**
Trinity Lutheran Church 504 S Westnedge Ave
- april 2 - *Palmesøndag* - Palm Sunday
- april 5 - **Norwegian Language Class - Marshall Library**
- april 7 - *Langfredag* - Good Friday
- april 9 - *Påskedag* - Easter Sunday
- april 15 - Deadline: Sarah Paulsen Masse Moro Scholarship
- april 26 - **Norwegian Language Class - Marshall Library**
- mai 5 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles



The crowds that turned out for the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Kalamazoo made it all worth it!

Gratulerer med dagen! *Fødselsdag Hilsener* **April Birthdays**

Lyra Fugett	John Riggs
Jamie Lynn Stafne	Herman Lee
Robert Swanson	Leif H. Selden
Helen Spence	Katherine Harvatine

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.



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.