



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

January 2022

1-22

Meetings: *In-person cancelled until further notice due to the pandemic. Monthly meetings will be conducted virtually online.*

Sept - April: 2nd Sundays, 2 p.m.
May only: 3rd Sunday, 2 p.m.

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Joint Meeting with Askeladden, Sonja Henie, & Sognefjord Lodges Sunday, January 9 2 p.m. (online) *The Way North*

Dive into Norway's WWII history as the grandchildren of NRAF Pilot, Norm Midthun, retrace his steps 71 years after he piloted Crown Prince Olav on his 1945 post-war, victory tour of Norway.

When Minnesota-born, Norwegian American Norm Midthun graduated high school early and wanted to join the war effort, he was too young for the American military. After lying about his age, however, he found the Royal Norwegian Air Force was happy to have him. He left the midwestern United States for the first time by rail to an airbase in Toronto: Little Norway. This is where he would learn how to fly and how to speak Norwegian before being sent overseas. Norm spent the remainder of the war assisting the Norwegian resistance movement flying a PBY Catalina sea plane.

Crown Prince Olav V escaped the German occupation of Norway in April, 1940, and went on to lead the war effort in exile. When he returned to Norway five years to the day later, he needed to assess the damages of his ravaged homeland. For this, the Crown Prince needed a pilot, and the young American, Norm Midthun, was chosen.

The Crown Prince's damage assessment tour quickly evolved into a morale-boosting, celebratory movement that marked the beginning of a new stage in Norwegian history. From Kirkenes to Oslo, as Norm flew the Crown Prince from fjord to fjord down the coast, he absorbed an array of stories and emotions along the way.

In 2016, Norm's family discovered their 92-year-old grandfather's scrapbook which they had never before seen, with its details of his extensive tour. This sparked an adventure of a lifetime. They venture to Norway to visit the stops of the Crown Prince Tour, interview locals, and recreate the photos from the scrapbook. Through this quest, they discover their family history and their own way north.

Note: We will gather online at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 9, for a few minutes of greeting each other, and then watch the 75-minute documentary, *The Way North*. After the film, Askeladden Lodge will conduct a brief business meeting to install our 2022 officers.

Time: January 9, 2022 2 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join our meeting:

[The link for the meeting will be emailed to you the evening before the event.](#)

Meeting ID: 825 5035 4542

Passcode: 532532532

Dial by your location (only if using phone for audio)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Looking Back

Curtis Cleveland, Lodge Historian

Thirty years ago, January 1992, Scott Erickson was the lodge president, having succeeded Myrtle Beinhauer. The lodge met at 4 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month at the Masonic Temple. At this meeting, the cultural program was presented by two members of the Dyresen family. First, Megan Dyresen, a Portage Northern High School student, talked about her experience at a youth camp in Norway, made possible by a Sons of Norway Foundation scholarship. Second, Dyre Dyresen, Megan's grandfather, retired professor at Andrews University, talked about his "Norwegian Connection."

Twenty-five years ago, January 1997, Curt Osborn was the lodge president. The lodge met at 4 p.m., the first Sunday of the month, at the Portage Senior Center. For the cultural program, members talked about their "Christmas Memories" when they were young. The newsletter had a 2-page essay by Pearl Ingebritson on her Christmas Memories.

Twenty years ago, January 2002, Orlin Loen was the lodge president. The lodge met at 4 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month at the Portage Senior Center. At this meeting, the item of the highest interest was the Norway Trip Drawing, where the winner received two round-trip tickets to Norway. Pearl Ingebritson won the drawing. Besides the drawing and the installation of the officers, the members watched a video on "Norwegian Food."

Fifteen years ago, January 2007, Dennis Darling was installed as the new lodge president, succeeding Orlin Loen. The meetings were at 4 p.m., the second Sunday of the month, at the Portage Senior Center. Again, the big interest at this meeting was the Norway Trip drawing. Helen Cassetto and Holly Jensen were the two winners, each receiving two round-trip tickets to Norway. Louise Adams presented the cultural program on "Rosemaling."

Ten years ago, January 2012, Joyce Hare was the lodge president. Meetings were scheduled at 4 p.m., the second Sunday of the month, at the Portage Senior Center. At this meeting, Svein Thoen gave the cultural program "Norwegian Sports." The next month, the newsletter editor, Joan O'Bryan, wrote the following: "Every so often, we are presented with a cultural program that leaves me filled with pride because I'm lucky enough to be born of Norwegian heritage. Who could know that January's program, with the unassuming title "Norwegian Sports" - essentially a program on skiing - would be such a program? To hear all that was accomplished on skies through the stories that Svein Thoen shared with us was amazing!"

Five years ago, January 2017, Curtis Cleveland was the lodge president. The lodge met at 4 p.m., the second Sunday of the month, at Trinity Lutheran Church. (Later in the year, the starting time of the meetings was changed from 4 p.m. to 2 p.m.) At this meeting, besides the installation of the officers, the lodge, after a one-hour discussion, adopted the new revised guidelines for the Norway Trip Drawing. Members watched a video "Robert Asp and the Hjemkomst Viking Ship."

Askeladden Lodge 2022 scholarships

Joyce Hare, Scholarship Chairperson

If you have children or grandchildren starting college next year or continuing as an undergraduate student, they can be considered for a scholarship awarded by Askeladden Lodge. The 2022 budget allows for up to three \$1,000 scholarships.

Applications and required documents for the 2022 Askeladden Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarships are due to Joyce Hare by March 15, 2021. The online application form with guidelines can be downloaded in one editable document here: <http://bit.ly/3rAZ6uT>

Please contact Joyce Hare at (269) 327-5824 with any inquiries.

Being awarded a Lodge scholarship one year neither precludes a student from winning or guarantees that student will win it in subsequent years.

The application process is not complicated, but it does require a little planning to gather the required information, such as letters of recommendation and transcripts, so begin the process today, including to make sure your Sons of Norway dues are up to date.

December meeting recap: "December Music of Norway"

Joan O'Bryan, Membership Chair

At our December meeting we were joined by several members of Sonja Henie and Sognefjord. We spent a few minutes catching up with each other before the program began. Astrid Willis came home early from Oslo due to the sudden emergence of a new COVID variant (Omicron) that appeared in Oslo, causing many venues to shut down. Fortunately, Astrid did get to spend quality time with her brother while she was there, something she couldn't do last year due to pandemic travel restrictions. We got to speak with Jean Willinger for the first time since our July picnic in Marshall. Thank you, Barb Heffner, for making this possible!

Our December meeting traditionally has a cultural program only, with no business meeting. We did the same this year and listened to music that you might hear in December if you were in Norway. We included a non-holiday performance from a previous Nobel Peace Prize concert and a Lucia-type song from Sissel: *Vitae Lux*, as well as the traditional Jul songs we frequently hear at our Askeladden Juletreffest when our children joyfully sing and dance around the tree.

December 2021 Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Joyce Hare, Karen Hare, Barbara Heffner, Arden Hetletvedt, Elizabeth Kraatz, Vaniar Lander, Joan O'Bryan, Curt Osborn, David Sherman, Terese Sherman, Helen Spence, Kris Spence, Inger Thoen, Gail Thompson-Hadley, Crystal Walvoord, Jean Willinger, and Astrid Willis. Guest: Ruth Hetletvedt. Visitors: Judy Olsen, Vee Bjornson, Merle Hanson. Contact Joan O'Bryan with any corrections.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Reflections on Winter, Wood-Burning, and White Pine

Last winter I discovered the Norwegian poet, Olav Hauge, and I turned to his book of collected poems, *The Dream We Carry*, for inspiration on woodstoves and winter.

Winter Morning / Vintermorgon

When I woke this morning, the panes
were frosted over,

då eg vak I dag, var rutone tilfrosne,

but I glowed from a good dream.

men eg glødde av ein god draum.

And the stove poured out its warmth

Og omnen slo varme ut i romet

from a wood block it had enjoyed the whole night.

frå ein kubbe han hadde godna seg med um natti.



Watching Olivia watch the woodstove logs burning

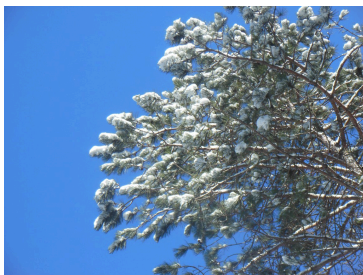
This link provides an excellent essay on the life and poetry of Hauge with excerpts and discussions of some of his famous poems. [Olav Håkonson Hauge - LJODAHÅTT \(ljodahatt.com\)](http://Olav Håkonson Hauge - LJODAHÅTT (ljodahatt.com)) "Like Robert Frost, Olav Hauge led a solitary life and wrote poetry in a country side in the western part of Norway. He was born in 1908 and lived all his life on what he could produce from three acres of ground" where he lived until he was 86 years old.

For the past dozen years, our woodstove has been our prime source of winter heat and its friendly warmth does give us a glow of well-being when the winter winds howl outside.

My husband was a forester and last week I found a book our dad had given David for Christmas in 2002:

Lumberjack: Inside an Era in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan by William S. Crowe (goodreads.com). In this 50th Anniversary edition of Crowe's book, I'm learning about lumbering in Michigan when "White Pine was King" from the author's first-hand account of his experiences as a lumberjack more than one

hundred years ago. Norwegian-Americans brought their woodsman skills to Michigan's logging camps, rivers, and mills and Crowe's book is a fascinating glimpse into the lives of our hardy ancestors.



Snow-covered White Pine

Norwegian-Americans were prevalent among those who harvested Michigan's millions of forested acres. According to the editors' notes in Crowe's *Lumberjack*, "Michigan's original forest covered 35 million of the state's 38 million acres" and one quarter of that was white pine... "By the end of the lumbering era, Michigan loggers will have cut 161 billion board feet of pine logs, and 50 billion board feet of hardwoods...in dollar value, Michigan lumber will outvalue all the gold extracted from California by a billion dollars" (pp 115.) Century-old photos show the epic scale of Michigan's lumber era - mlive.com

In the spirit of Norwegian *friluftliv*, life lived outdoors, I'm planning to head back to the almost 50 acres of awesome giant white pine near Grayling later this winter to snowshoe and cross-country ski and explore the logging museum at Hartwick Pines. With my re-built knee, and a new Fitbit to encourage me to exceed 10,000 daily steps, I am building Norwegian-respectable winter sports muscles!

How a lumberman's daughter saved Hartwick Pines' magical forest for Michigan - mlive.com

Please join us Sunday, January 9, at 2 p.m. for viewing *The Way North* documentary film. Following the 75-minute film, Askeladden members are requested to stay online for a brief business meeting so we can install our 2022 officers. We wish you abundant joy, good health, and enjoyment of the outdoors with family and friends for 2022!



Snowshoeing, Camp Michigania, Walloon Lake, 2013

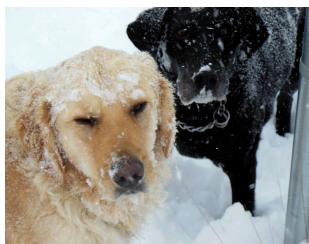
Gail Thompson-Hadley



Bountiful Snow, 2014



5-year-old grandkids at Ski Brule, Iron River, Spring 2021



My Snow Dogs, Oakley & Sadie

Sons of Norway Hockey Team schedule

Curtis A. Cleveland

Sat, Jan 29, 2022, 3:30 PM, at Wings West

Wed, Feb 2, 2022, 10:50 PM, at Wings West

The games of the Sons of Norway Hockey Team, lasting one hour, free to the public, are played at one of the two venues:

Wings West, north of exit 72 off I-94; and **Wings Event Center**, south of exit 80 off I-94.






SONS of NORWAY

January
2022

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

JANUAR KALENDER

-  • Januar 1 - Nyttårsdag - New Year's Day
- Januar 6 - Helligtrekongersdag - Epiphany
- **Januar 9** - **Askeladden Lodge virtual meeting 2 p.m.**
- Januar 16 - Sønner av Norge - Sons of Norway founded, 1895
-  • Januar 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
-  • Januar 21 - H.R.H. Princess Ingrid Alexandra 2004
- Februar 4 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles.

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

January Birthdays

Brett Jensen	Scott Erickson
Karn Erlandson	Magnus Selden
Aric Nesbitt	

NOTICE: All Askeladden **in-person** events are cancelled until further notice. Events are currently held virtually (online) during our normal meeting months. Join us your computer, tablet, or smart phone.

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.