



the ASKELADDEN news

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

October 2021

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

10-21

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

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, October 10

2 p.m. (online)

My Serbian Father's WWII Service in the U.S. Viking Battalion

Robert Stepanovich, speaker

Many of us read the fascinating story about the 99th Infantry Battalion in the August 2021 issue of the *Viking* magazine (pp 26-31). Thanks to Jim Ellickson, former Sonja Henie member (now in the Christian Radich Lodge - Sutton's Bay), we were able to get in touch with Robert Stepanovich, who has stories of his father's service in that unit. Given that the 99th was a Norwegian-speaking unit, you can probably guess from our speaker's surname what was unusual about his father's assignment to the unit. Come join us for an interesting program!

For more information about the event, email SofNLansingMI@gmail.com or call Gary Lee of Sonja Henie Lodge at (517) 351-9834.

Following the movie, Askeladden members will stay online for a brief business meeting and the Norway Trip drawing.

Time: Oct 10, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join our meeting on computers and other devices with audio/video capability:

This is where we normally include the meeting link. For security reasons, the link will be emailed to you the night before the event. Please come back then and check your email for the meeting link.

Meeting ID: **829 1631 6357**

Passcode: **101021**

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)



ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Tra Presidenten

Friluftsliv Fall and Future Norwegian Book Share Sessions

Greetings from northern Wisconsin where I am visiting my son and family near Eagle River. I've been aiming to live the Norwegian outdoor life of friluftsliv and had a good dose of it today.

My two younger grandchildren spent the morning at the local 80-year-old forestry education center's nature camp for young children. They listen to stories, learn new skills, construct nature crafts, and play – all mostly outdoors like children in the Scandinavian forest schools. We checked out their natural playground with its hanging log, stump and log balance beams, and a tall climbing hill made entirely of stumps.

My newly re-built knee had a successful workout when we hiked a forested path all the way around a nearby lake on this sunny, warm First of October afternoon. Then, with the prediction of rain for the coming weekend, we took advantage of today's beautiful weather and drove a few miles to launch my son's family speedboat in Eagle Lake for one last outing of the season.

The fall colors were brilliant in the sunlight and reflected in the water as we traveled from one lake to the next through narrow channels of the connected Chain of Lakes. Our destination was a small island in Cranberry Lake with a public access dock where the children played at water's edge while my son grilled some Wisconsin brats for our fresh-air supper. We spotted a pair of loons in the lake, and we heard the haunting loon calls on our way back to the launch site as the sun set over the water and surrounding North woods. It was a glorious family friluftsliv day!

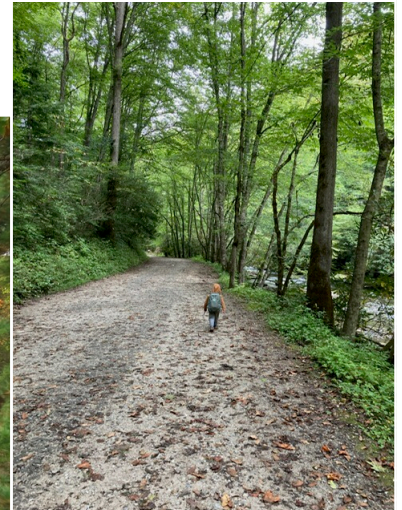
We hope you will join us for a Norwegian WWII history program presented online by the Sonja Henie Lodge on Sunday, October 10th. After the program, Askeladden members will have a brief business meeting to present the slate of officers proposed for 2022. We will also have the drawing for the Norway Trip.

Please be thinking of any Norway-related books you have read that you'd like to share with our members. We have plans in the works for a book-sharing session for the November program. Astrid Willis has volunteered to share a book of Norse Mythology, *The Witch's Heart*, which she enjoyed with her children and grandchildren this past summer. I am re-reading David Ellingson's *Paddle Pilgrim: Kayaking the Fjords of Norway* so I can share my reactions to his book of adventures and spiritual reflections on his journey.

Here's to a Friluftsliv Fall for all our Askeladden members and friends.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Fall colors,
northern
Wisconsin



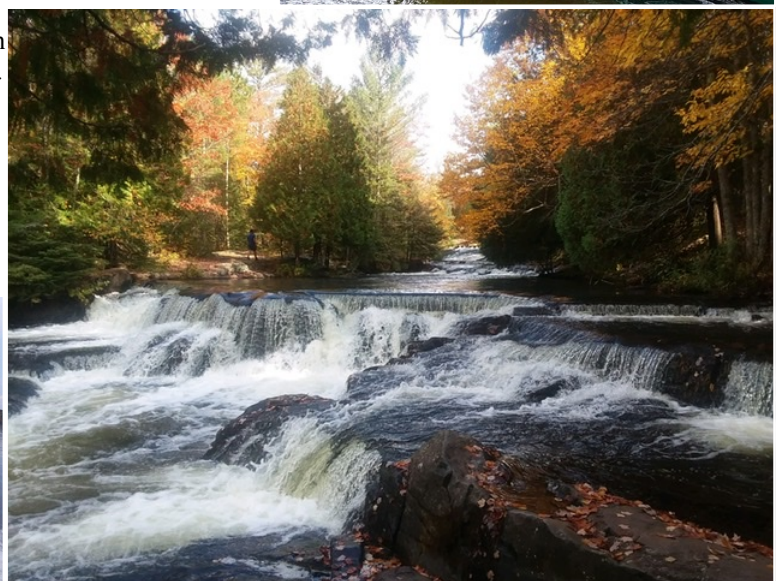
My youngest grandson hiking along a Smoky Mountain creek

Above: Hiking to a picnic spot, Cranberry Lake Island

Right: My two daughters and their families kayaking Paw Paw River



Below: Family hike up to Bond Falls



ASKELADDEN NEWS

Sons of Norway hockey team begins 11th season

Curtis A. Cleveland

On October 1, the Sons of Norway Hockey Team of the Kalamazoo Adult Hockey League began its 11th season, playing at Wings West in Kalamazoo.

Since 2011, Askeladden Lodge has sponsored the Sons of Norway Hockey Team, which was organized by then Askeladden Lodge member Brandon Feringa.

During the 2020-21 season, the team was very successful, runner-up in the winter playoffs and winner of the summer playoffs.



Current Sons of Norway team with summer League championship trophy. Congratulations, Sons!

Upcoming games include the following:

Friday, October 1, 6:15 PM, at Wings West
Friday, October 8, 9:45 PM, at Wings West
Friday, October 15, 10:15 PM, at Wings West
Friday, October 22, 9:45 PM, at Wings West
Friday, October 29, 9:45 PM, at Wings West

Eleven years ago, the lodge, after selecting the design of the uniforms, purchased new jerseys for the team. The uniform was dark blue with the Sons of Norway shield.

This year, the team is purchasing additional uniforms, which will be worn when they are designated as the visiting team. The uniforms will be white with the Sons of Norway logo. The team will continue to wear the blue uniforms when they are designated as the home team.

The team is soliciting funds for the new uniforms. As I write this article, they are short \$600, which is the amount that the lodge gave the team eleven years ago to purchase the blue uniforms.

If you would to give a donation to the Sons of Norway Hockey Team, please write a check to Mr. Patrick Skinner, who is the team manager. Mail the check to

Mr. Patrick Skinner
3588 S Circle Drive, # 3-C
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

On the memo line, write "Uniforms."

September meeting: *Kaskeland*

Judy Hande-Skutnick presented our September cultural program with an enjoyable and informative documentary video that was part of the Sons of Norway District 5 virtual history course that Judy participated in this summer. Joan O'Bryan read the names of lodge members we have lost since 2018 for our traditional September remembrance. The lodge then went into a closed members-only session and approved the 2022 budget and the Nominating Committee for the 2022-23 lodge officers. Thirty members and guests from three Sons of Norway lodges as well as the Vasa lodge attended the cultural program.

September 2021 Askeladden Member attendance: Curtis Cleveland, Betsy Fish, Catherine Hande, Judy Hande-Skutnick, Joyce Hare, Karen Hare, Barbara Heffner, Arden Hetletvedt, Holly Jensen, Karen Kunze, Gwen Meredith, Joan O'Bryan, Sandra Santas, David Sherman, Inger Thoen, Gail Thompson-Hadley, and Crystal Walvoord. Guest: Mary Cordier

2022 Norway calendars available at discount

As Inger mentioned at our September meeting, she is taking orders for 2022 calendars now. Local people who are interested in purchasing 2022 Norwegian-themed calendars at a deep discount should contact Inger Thoen.

Place your 2022 calendar order by emailing Inger at ninnit@aol.com. If you want a call back, give her your phone number. The Viking Verse (Rosemaling) calendars are at a 50% discount for \$8. Also available are packs of 10 beautiful Rosemaled cards for \$8. The cost of the Splendor of Norway calendars will vary depending on the number of orders.

This is for local people only due to the pandemic and no in-person events. Pay for your calendars when you pick them up from Inger, or when they are delivered to you. Delivery arrangements will be made through Inger.

Sons of Norway Foundation Update

Jon Tehven, SofN Foundation Member

The mission of the Foundation is to share and preserve Nordic heritage, to positively affect our members' lives, and to make Sons of Norway communities better places to live.

Since 1966, staying true to this purpose, the Foundation has been supporting our members through scholarships and cultural exchange opportunities, providing disaster relief to members in need, and funding community programs that celebrate Norwegian heritage and culture. In 2020, the Foundation provided:

- \$10,742 in camperships for youth to attend Norwegian culture camps in the USA.
- \$3,800 in humanitarian aid to members and children in need.
- \$23,530 in grants for Nordic culture and heritage programs.
- \$17,170 in scholarships for American students studying in Norway.
- \$89,100 for students to study in the United States and Canada.

For more information about grants and scholarships, go to the Sons of Norway website and click on Foundation. And, remember . . . the Foundation is here for you . . . and it is here for good.

Thank you for your continued support.



SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

OKTOBER KALENDER

- oktober 9 - Leif Erikson Day
- **oktober 10 - Askeladden Monthly Meeting with Norway trip drawing. Online meeting hosted by Sonja Henie Lodge 2 p.m.**
- oktober 11 - Columbus Day/Canadian Thanksgiving Day
- oktober 24 - United Nations Day – *FN-dagen*
- oktober 31 - Halloween
- november 1 - Last day to submit articles for Askeladden News
- november 2 - Election Day in Kalamazoo and other localities

NOTICE: All Askeladden **in-person** events are cancelled until further notice.

Gratulerer med dagen **Oktober Birthdays**

James Moe

James John Kraatz

Haakon Selden

Clifford Davidson

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.