



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.

Officers:

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Sunday, December 12

2 p.m. (online)

December Music of Norway

Please plan to join us on Sunday afternoon for an online gathering of Askeladden members and friends, as well as those from our sister lodges, Sonja Henie and Sognefjord, when we extend holiday greetings to each other.

After a time of friendly conversations, catching up with both newer and long-time members, we'll enjoy a variety of entertaining musical videos reflecting music heard through the month of December in Norway.

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded every year on December 10 in Oslo. In conjunction with that comes the Nobel Peace Prize Concert at the Oslo Spektrum music arena. The NPPC usually features one Norwegian artist performing amongst other invited musicians, but in 2015, all of the artists performing at the concert were Norwegian, including the members of Norway's most famous band, **a-ha**. We will watch a song performed by a-ha, "Stay on These Roads," showcasing singer Morten Harket's famous amazing voice. Like many modern Norwegian bands, all of a-ha's songs are performed in English.



Sissel performs Vitae Lux

Next we will move on to some popular Norwegian Christmas song videos sung in Norwegian, several with captioned lyrics. We will conclude our program with a beautiful and moving video of world-famous Norwegian soprano, Sissel Kyrkjebø, performing the song "Vitae Lux," sung in Latin. This song about light and life, said to be inspired by the Northern Lights, is appropriate for the patron saint of light, Sankta Lucia, who is celebrated throughout Scandinavia the following day on December 13.

Keeping with tradition, there is no lodge business planned for our December meeting.

Topic: Askeladden December Music

Time: Dec 12, 2021 02:00 PM 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: 814 5312 9293

Passcode: 069086

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

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

ASKELADDEN NEWS

Election of 2022-23 Officers & Committees

Curtis A. Cleveland, Chair, Nominating Committee

The following officers and committees were elected at the November lodge meeting to serve from January 2022 to January 2023:

Board of Directors:

President - Gail Thompson-Hadley
Vice President - Joan O'Bryan
Secretary - Karen Hare
Treasurer - Curtis Cleveland
Acting Membership Secretary - Joan O'Bryan
Cultural Director - open

Support Officers:

Publicity Director - Open
Social Director - Esther Ann Brown
Sons of Norway Foundation Director - Curtis Cleveland
Sports Director - Curt Osborn
Youth Director - open
Counselor - Elizabeth Kraatz
Historian - Curtis Cleveland
Language Instructor - open
Librarian - Curtis Cleveland
Musician - open
Newsletter Editor - Joan O'Bryan
Newsletter Publisher - Judy Hande-Skutnick
Sunshine Coordinator - Arden Hetletvedt
TUBFRIM Coordinator - Holly Jensen
Webmaster - open
Volunteer Coordinator - This position will be vacant 2022-23
Adopt-a-school Coordinator - This position will be vacant 2022-23.

Committees:

Membership Committee:
Joan O'Bryan, Chair
Curtis Cleveland, member
Betsy Fish, member
Dr. Kris Spence, member
Marilyn Stewart-Lee, member

Finance Committee:
Curtis Cleveland, Chair
Jeff Andert, member
Joyce Hare, Member
Kris Spence, Member

Publicity Committee:
Chair - open
Curtis Cleveland, member
Joan O'Bryan, member

Scholarship Committee

Joyce Hare, Chair
Jeff Andert, member
Esther Ann Brown, member
Elizabeth Kraatz, member
Dr. John Riggs, member

Cultural Committee:
Open

Auditing Committee:
Joyce Hare, Chair:
Judy Hande-Skutnick, member
Dr. Kris Spence, member

Social Committee: This committee will be vacant 2022-23.

Norway Trip Committee: This committee will be vacant 2022-23.

Anyone interested in serving in one or more of the open positions is requested to contact Lodge President Gail Thompson-Hadley.

Serinakaker

Makes about 12 dozen

INGREDIENTS:

2 large eggs
1 cup sugar
4 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
3 sticks salted butter, softened
1/2 cup pearl sugar, or coarsely crushed sugar cubes



STEP 1:

Beat together 1 egg and sugar with an electric mixer until thick and pale. Sift in flour and baking powder and add butter. Beat on low speed until mixture forms a dough. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill until firm, at least 1 hour.

STEP 2:

Preheat oven to 350°F.

STEP 3:

Lightly beat remaining egg. Roll level teaspoons of dough into balls and arrange 1 inch apart on ungreased baking sheets. Press thumb into center of each ball to flatten, leaving a depression, and brush lightly with egg. Sprinkle crushed sugar in centers and bake in batches in middle of oven until golden, 12 to 18 minutes. Transfer to racks to cool completely.

[Norwegian Christmas Cookies Recipe](#) | [Epicurious](#)
(comments/reviews/tips for making)

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

November meeting recap and attendance

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Vice President

Our November cultural program was the 1-hour program *FamilieTid: Scandinavian Storytelling!* broadcast by Vesterheim Folk Art School. Two of the stories dramatically conveyed by Rose Arrowsmith included "The World's Largest Pancake" and "Billy Goats Gruff."

Although we both attended the same cultural program, Sonja Henie and Askeladden held separate meetings since both lodges had business meetings in addition to the cultural program. Ever our technical guru, Gail Thompson-Hadley realized that our original plan to share the screen of the Vesterheim program would not be technically possible. So we emailed our members and asked them to sign up for the Vesterheim program individually. Our members stepped up and registered for the free Vesterheim program and after that concluded, they used the link Gail created for us to attend and participate in our Business meeting.

At the request of Curtis Cleveland, chair of the Nominating Committee, Gail was prepared to conduct a secret vote should additional candidates be added to the same position at the time of the vote. Had we met in person, we would have used secret paper ballots in that situation, and Gail was able to duplicate that functionality within the Zoom application for us. It turned out that we did not have to use it, as we had no people competing for the same position, but we are grateful that Gail was tech-savvy enough to come prepared with a solution for the possibility.

Minutes from the 9/12/21 and 10/10/21 Business meetings were approved. We discussed the possibility of a future donation to the new Portage Senior Center. We had a discussion about resuming meetings in person. In short, of all the people who chose to speak, only one was of the opinion that our lodge should resume meeting in person now. This was simply a discussion with no motions or actions taken. We will continue to follow our current plan and remain online for the time being.

Gail announced an exciting development regarding our Norway Trip. Barbara Heffner requested and was granted the Norway trip through the senior option. We're so happy for Barb!

Eighteen Askeladden members attended the business meeting. If you plan to request the senior option or want to be included in next year's Norway Trip drawing, make sure you meet all the basic membership requirements and check the newsletter each month to verify your attendance.

November 2021 Askeladden Member attendance: Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Betsy Fish, Catherine Hande, Judy Hande-Skutnick, Joyce Hare, Karen Hare, Barbara Heffner, Arden Hetletvedt, Holly Jensen, Elizabeth Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Curt Osborn, David Sherman, Terese Sherman, Kris Spence, Marilyn Stewart-Loe and Gail Thompson-Hadley.

Sons of Norway Hockey Team schedule

Curtis A. Cleveland

Sat, Dec 18, 2021, 8:40 PM, at Wings Event Center

Sat, Jan 8, 2022, 8:10 PM, at Wings West

The games of the Sons of Norway Hockey Team, lasting one hour and free to the public, are played at one of two venues: **Wings West**, north of exit 72 off I-94; and **Wings Event Center**, south of exit 80 off I-94.

Fra Presidenten

A year ago December we gathered with our Askeladden members and friends, as well as those from our sister Sonja Henie and Sognefjord lodges, to enjoy the spectacular 2013 Christmas concert from Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim with the St. Olaf Choir and the Norwegian Girls' Choir.

This Sunday, we hope you will join us for a variety of December music from Norway but if you'd like to listen to the Nidaros concert again, or for the first time, here is the free YouTube link: https://youtu.be/5Io_7-jvfyU

Before last year, I was not familiar with the glorious voice of Bergen-born soprano, Sissel. If you've listened to the soundtrack of the 1997 movie, Titanic, you have heard her awesome voice. She also sang a beautiful rendition of the Olympic Hymn at the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics. We will share her inspired singing of the Santa Lucia song as part of our program on Sunday.

<https://www.thetabernaclechoir.org/articles/7-things-you-didnt-know-about-sissel.html>

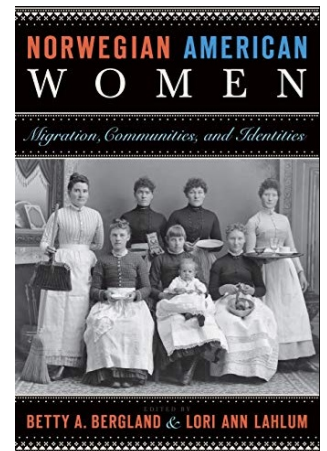
As we look forward to 2022, we hope the current Covid-19 pandemic will finally decrease its continuing tragic toll as more people become vaccinated. At our November business meeting, most of the members present expressed concerns about resuming our in-person monthly meetings. While vaccinations have proved to decrease the chances of severe illness and death, the highly transmissible Delta variant is resulting in break-through infections among those of us who are fully vaccinated and have had our boosters. With a newborn grandchild and unvaccinated toddler now living in my home, I continue to be cautious about inside group meetings with non-family members.

I am committed to working to continue the vitality of our lodge and connections with our members with our monthly online programs as well as our newsletter while aiming for in-person gatherings again when the weather allows us to gather outdoors.

Please contact me with any ideas you have for future programs or areas of Norwegian culture you would like to learn more about. If you have recently read any Norway-related books which you'd like to share with us, please let me know. I am currently reading *Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities and Identities*, a book of essays which seeks to dispel the image of Ole Rolvaag's fictional Beret as the typical immigrant woman who was the depressed and reluctant pioneer mother as contrasted with her adventuresome, entrepreneurial and capable husband. The book is edited by Betty Bergland and Lori Ann Lahlum, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2011.

My best wishes to you for a joyous and healthy holiday season.

Gail Thompson-Hadley





SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

DESEMBER KALENDER



- desember 6 - Finland Independence Day - celebrating Finland's independence from the Russian Republic in 1917
- desember 10 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded in Oslo
Live stream available on YouTube. www.nobelprize.org
- **desember 12** - **Askeladden Lodge Christmas program 2 p.m. via Zoom**
- desember 13 - Luciadagen - St. Lucia Day
- desember 23 - Lille julaften - Little Christmas Eve
- desember 24 - Julaften - Christmas Eve
- desember 25 - Juledag - Christmas Day
- desember 31 - Nyttårsaften - New Year's Eve
- desember 31 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles, earlier is appreciated.



God Jul!

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

December Birthdays

Daniel Hadley

Karen Hare

Tore Ramstad

Sandra Santas

Marilyn Stewart-Loe

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

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.