



the ASKELADDEN news

November 2022

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

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

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

11-22

Meetings:

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

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**Sunday, November 13 (Farsdag i Norge)
2 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church**

“Thank you for your service” Honor Flight by Phil Kunze

Askeladden charter member Phil Kunze will join us to talk about his June 18th Honor Flight. Phil and his son, Erik, were aboard the Vietnam-era Honor Flight organized by Askeladden member Alice Kraatz. (It was a Kraatz family affair: Alice's mother, Elizabeth, was aboard; Alice's brother, James, documented the Honor Flight on video; and Alice's grandmother, Sandra Santas, served as a guardian for a veteran.) Our lodge sponsored Air Force veteran Bill Stokka for that Honor Flight.

Phil will share with us how meaningful the experience was for him personally, and show us photos of how he documented the experience. His experience was about way more than flying to Washington to visit war memorials. It was about understanding his Vietnam-era military experiences in the context of others'. It was about memories and emotions that were stirred. About being thanked (more than “Thank you for your service”), and the need for being welcomed home. And ultimately, about our freedoms and the spirit of America.

Please bring a dish to pass, as our event begins with a shared meal. Coffee, water and table service will be provided. There is a new entrance in the back of the church!

Happy Father's Day! Wait...What?

No, you didn't enter a time warp. We're talking about Norwegian Father's Day! It's celebrated every year on the second Sunday in November.

Originally in the 1930's, Norway celebrated in June like the United States. However, in 1949, the government changed the date to early November. This was done purely for economic reasons: it boosted sagging sales in shops in the run-up to the Christmas shopping season. Other neighboring countries followed suit. Estonia, Finland, Iceland, and Sweden also celebrate their fathers on the same day.

So how can you celebrate your father, Norwegian-style? With gifts, of course! Common presents in Norway include hand-knitted items, coffee mugs, socks, ties, and gloves. Traditionally gifts are not extravagant, but rather are subtle tributes to a cherished parent. You can also make the day all about dad by making him breakfast in bed, or any favorite meal. Special desserts are of course always a favorite!

November 13 is coming up. Don't forget to wish your father a God Farsdag!



ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Lodge members donate to Foundation

Curtis Cleveland, Foundation Director

At our October 2 meeting, lodge members were asked to make individual donations to the Sons of Norway Foundation as part of the October Foundation Month.

Passing the basket, members contributed a total of \$62 to the Foundation. Although this amount may be considered small and insignificant, it was a big step, considering that this was the first time in two or three years we asked individuals for donations.

In addition to the individual contributions, the Lodge gave an annual gift of \$200 to the Foundation.

The Sons of Norway Foundation, founded in 1966, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, is the charitable arm of the Sons of Norway. Annually, the Foundation awards approximately \$112,000 in scholarships to 35 students; and awards approximately \$35,000 in grants to communities, lodges, and individuals for humanitarian and fraternal purposes.

If you have not made a donation to the Foundation this year, please use the envelope that came with October issue of the *Viking* magazine and send it to the Foundation in Minneapolis.

Lansing Lodge President Gary Lee

We recently learned that Gary Lee, long-time President of Sonja Henie Lodge, passed away Sunday, October 23, 2022. Gary dedicated countless hours of service to Sons of Norway. We remember Gary fondly from many shared activities in recent years, including joint online meetings.

Gary's wife, Pat, relayed that his body was donated to Michigan State University's medical school, and a celebration of his life is planned for January, 2023.

Sign up now for Lucia and Star Boys

Holly Jensen

A joint celebration of Santa Lucia Day Sunday, December 11, at 2 p.m. in the Trinity Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall, is planned by Askeladden Lodge and the Vasa Satellite Lodge.

Please join our celebration of Santa Lucia - Kalamazoo style - with traditional songs, costumes, food, drink and a visit from Father Christmas. In Sweden this involves young adults and teens in the celebration, but in Norway, it is mainly an event for (young) children, organized in lower elementary schools and kindergarten.

If you have a willing child, grandchild or neighbor, we have the costume and (electric) candles! Please text or call Holly Jensen (269) 598-5523 by the first week in December.

Sons of Norway Hockey Team Nov/Dec schedule

Curtis Cleveland

- Friday, November 4, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Wings West
- Friday, November 11, 2022, 6:40 p.m., Wings West
- Saturday, November 19, 2022, 11 a.m., special appearance in Kalamazoo Holiday Parade with Askeladden Lodge
- Friday, December 2, 2022, 7:55 p.m., Wings West
- Friday, December 9, 2022, 6:15 p.m., Wings West
- Friday, December 16, 2022, 6:45 p.m., Wings West

The games listed last one hour, are free to the public, and are played at Wings West, north of exit 72, off I-94.

October recap: our first indoor event since 2020

Joan O'Bryan

Vasa invited us to join them again this year at their annual Fish Boil at Trinity Lutheran Church. We enjoyed an incredibly sunny afternoon outside the church as the fish cooked. We then gathered in the Fellowship Hall indoors for our meal with Vasa. Our lodge members later retreated to the Lounge for our business meeting, where we were presented with the slate of nominations for the November lodge officer elections. Our annual Trip Drawing was held and Kris Spence won! Congratulations to Kris from our entire lodge! We heard the annual Foundation report. We learned about upcoming programs, including the December Lucia Pageant, and the November Holiday Parade. Please contact Elizabeth Kraatz if you are interested in a Friday night Hockey watch party at Wings West.



Sonja Henie (Lansing) Lodge President Gary Lee with 50-year Sons of Norway member Marion Thrana and Gail Thompson-Hadley celebrating Askeladden's 30th Anniversary in 2018.

October 2022 Askeladden member attendance: Richard Adams, Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Karen Hare, Holly Jensen, Teri Koretsky, Alice Kraatz, Elizabeth Kraatz, Van Lander, Joan O'Bryan, Gail Thompson-Hadley, Astrid Willis

Guests: Marianne Fuerst, Judi Giffin, Ginni Giese, Secrete House, Bob Swanson, Laurie Swanson, Arlene Warnicke

GKSA Kick-Off Classic

Elizabeth Kraatz

Ice skating was born in Scandinavia, where archeologists have discovered animal bones that have been fashioned into figure skates dating back to 3000 BC. In 2022, the Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association (GKSA) will be hosting the 22nd Annual Kick-Off Classic - a synchronized figure skating competition that launches the season. The event will take place at Wings Event Center from November 18-20. In 1999, its first year, the competition drew just 11 teams. It now hosts more than 130 teams (more than 1,700 skaters) from throughout the Midwest. Synchronized skating is a team sport in which 8 to 20 skaters perform a program in unison. Competitors from all levels - beginner to advanced - will stun you with their speed and precision. Askeladden Lodge proudly sponsors GKSA and two of its heritage members (James and Alice Kraatz) skate with the GKSA, although not on one of its synchronized teams this season.



ASKELOADDEN NEWS

A Norwegian Scissor Cutting

Elizabeth Kraatz

The art of scissor-cutting (papirklip) has been practiced in Norway for hundreds of years. I recently attended a (virtual) lecture presented by Danish papirklip artist Torben Clausen through the Vesterheim museum's Folk Art School. A special exhibit on the art is on display until December 5 at Vesterheim, if you should be lucky enough to have a chance to visit in person. Introduced from China in the 1500's, papirklip is the quintessential form of folk art because the necessary materials – paper and scissors – are inexpensive. It quickly became a popular form of expression throughout Norway and all of Scandinavia, including by Hans Christian Anderson.

Karen Bit Velje, a contemporary Norwegian papirklip artist, was the first to hold Hans Christian Anderson's scissors after his death. "They were enormous," she said. Having tried many pairs of scissors – many of them specialized for papirklip, Velje continues to prefer to use her mother's sewing scissors for almost all of her work, including her series of seven "Dragon's Egg" cuttings. Massive in scale, the cuttings in this series acknowledge the art form's Chinese roots and the importance of dragons in the legends of both Norway and China. Each of the "Dragon's Egg" cuttings explores a Norwegian theme.

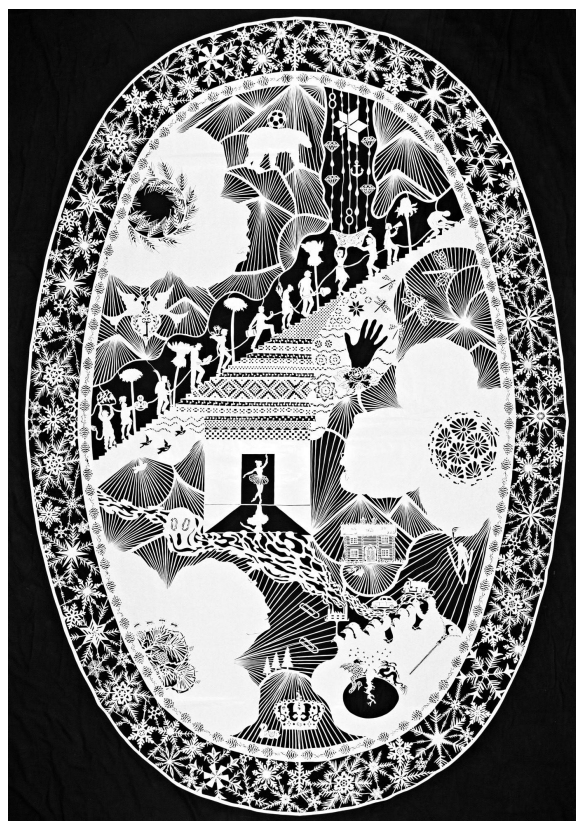
This cutting illustrates the theme of present-day Norway, along with a ballerina, which is how she "signs" her artwork with scissors; becoming a ballet dancer requires persistence, artistic devotion and attention to detail – all the traits necessary to becoming a papirklip artist. Each of the 12 figures climbing the staircase shares the story of present day Norway through symbols: a fisherman with a salmon, a grieving mother with a rose on her back (for the mass shooting in 2011), a student who is a member of the National Union of Students in Norway (NSO), and others. Additional objects that are emblematic of modern-day Norway are scattered throughout the cutting. Can you spot:

- The crown (for Norway's royal family)
- Edvard Munch's "The Scream"
- Paperclips (Norwegians wore them during WWII to show they were in the Resistance)
- A soccer ball (the northernmost soccer field in the world is in Norway)
- The Marius knitting pattern
- The Olympic torch
- The troll

What else do you spot in this beautiful piece of artwork? Please share your discoveries with me when we see each other at our November meeting!



The artist with her works. Note the scale of the art.



Fra Presidenten

Hardanger Embroidery & Elections, Budget

I gained a new appreciation for the skill and patience of our Norwegian ancestors who created beautiful items of Hardanger embroidery after attempting to learn a few basic stitches myself at a weekend class at Norskedalen Nature and History Center in mid-October. Ten of us spent two full days carefully counting stitches under bright lights as we followed the instructions of our instructor to sew a basic rectangular pattern and then a fan stitch. I brought home embroidery thread, fine needles and delicate embroidery scissors so I can continue my initial project. Our instructor provided many lovely examples of her Hardanger embroidery work constructed with great skills and care of many years.

While I was in Wisconsin for the Hardanger workshop, I visited the La Crosse Botanical Gardens along the Mississippi River. The gardens had a lovely Norwegian section complete with numerous trolls and a waterfall.

I look forward to seeing you at our November program at Trinity Lutheran Church followed by an important business meeting to approve our budget and elect our officers for next year.

Gail Thompson-Hadley



Apply now for Foundation Scholarships

Curtis Cleveland, Foundation Director

Effective October 1, members of Askeladden Lodge, as well as children and grandchildren of members, may apply for many scholarships available from the Sons of Norway Foundation. The application window varies from 3 to 5 months.

The Foundation scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$4,000. They cover study in the United States as well as Norway. Some restrictions apply, such as for age, gender, field of study, level of study (undergraduate, graduate, and technical/vocational), and financial need.

The applications are available online. Visit sofn.com and from the **Foundation** drop-down menu, select **Scholarships**. Fifteen named scholarships are listed. You may apply for 14 of them. If you have questions, please contact me or the Foundation in Minneapolis.





SONS of NORWAY

November
2022

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

NOVEMBER KALENDER

- november 1 - Allehelgensdag - All Saints Day
- november 6 - Daylight Saving Time ends
- november 8 - Election Day
-  • november 11 - Veterans Day - Remembrance Day (Canada)
- november 13 - Farsdag i Norge - Father's Day in Norway
- **november 13 - Askeladden Lodge Meeting with potluck dinner and Program - 2 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church**
-  • november 24 - Thanksgiving Day
- december 2 - last day to submit articles for *Askeladden News*

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway
Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

November Birthdays

John Thingstad
Judy Hande-Skutnick
Inger Thoen
Christine Hadley
Yasmin Aimee Lilly
Vaniar Lander
Willeen Platt
Jon Platt
Kamel Spencer Lilly



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.