



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

December 2022

12-22

Meetings:

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

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

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Joint event with Vasa 2 p.m. Sunday, December 11 Sankta Lucia Festival Trinity Lutheran Church



Please join Vasa Satellite Lodge and your friends from Askeladden when we celebrate on Sunday, December 11, at Trinity Lutheran Church, with Alice Kraatz as Sankta Lucia.

Please enter through the new west (rear) entrance, adjacent to the parking lot, with your family and friends (and finger food treats) and take the stairs or the elevator to the basement to the Fellowship Hall.

If you know or have a child/youth willing to slip on a simple Tomte or Lucia attendant costume, they can follow our Lucia Alice Kraatz and distribute sweet treats to all our guests. **Please see Holly at 2 p.m. to get your child costumed.**

Face masks are optional, but we ask that persons feeling ill or having a recent exposure to illness consider helping your friends stay healthy this holiday season.

We will gather at 2 p.m. with the Lucia Festival beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Following the program, enjoy gløgg and a smørgåsbord of treats.

Members are encouraged to bring Christmas finger foods (cookies, cakes, fruit, breads or rolls) to share. Norwegian foods (lefse, Julekake, Kransekake, Kringle, and Rosettes) are appreciated.

If you ordered 2023 Norwegian Calendars from Inger Thoen, be sure to **bring cash or a check** for her. She will bring the calendars to distribute. No business session is scheduled for this meeting.

ASKEADDEN NEWS

Annual Lutefisk Lunch of the Nordic Fellows

Curtis Cleveland

The Detroit-based Nordic Fellows, an organization of men only, most of them of Nordic heritage (Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, and Icelandic) will hold their annual Lutefisk Lunch on Saturday, December 17, starting at 11:30 a.m., at The Swedish Club, 22398 Ruth Street, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

The cost of the luncheon is \$39.

The meal includes Norwegian lutefisk, parsley potatoes, peas & carrots, pickled beets, Swedish meatballs (for the faint-hearted), hardtack & limpa, plus Aquavit and coffee.

If you have questions, the point of contact is Dennis Flessland, (248) 547-6379 or dflessland@yahoo.com. You can contact me as well (269) 381-4531. I have attended prior lutefisk lunches of this group and I plan to attend this year's lunch.

The RSVP deadline (with payment) is December 14.

St. Olaf Christmas Festival to be telecast

Curtis Cleveland

The "St. Olaf Christmas Festival: Love Divine" will be telecast on Sunday, Christmas Day, December 25, on the PBS channel WGVI at 6 p.m.

This one-hour program consists of excerpts from the 2021 Christmas Festival, held on the St. Olaf campus in Northfield, Minnesota. Over 500 students participated in this event, singing the hymns and carols of Christmas, some familiar, most of them not. This festival, like all St. Olaf concerts, ends with the singing of "Beautiful Savior."

This year's St. Olaf Christmas Festival was held December 2-3, at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.



Abby & Dan Renoos, Kris Spence, Karn Erlandson, and Elizabeth Kraatz.

60th Holiday Parade in downtown Kalamazoo

While the giant balloons and marching bands all withdrew due to the extreme weather, the Sons of Norway Nissen, Polar Bear, & Troll proudly marched the 1.4 mile Holiday Parade route on November 19. (Not pictured: Curtis Cleveland and Joan O'Bryan)

November recap: Phil Kunze - Honor Flight

Our November gathering began with a potluck meal in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church. Tasty ham, homemade bread, chicken/wild rice casserole, and cookies, kringle, and other desserts were among the generous spread of food.

Phil Kunze presented a heart-felt look at his experiences with Michigan's first-ever Vietnam-era ("Yellow Ribbon") Honor Flight this past June. In the audience were Alice Kraatz, who spearheaded the special Honor Flight and her mom, Elizabeth Kraatz, who worked alongside Alice for the past several years planning, coordinating, and spending countless hours to make everything seamlessly come together for a meaningful and unforgettable experience for our veterans in June. How special and rewarding it was for Alice to hear first-hand the impact the experience had on a grateful Honor Flight vet.

DECEMBER 17TH

2022

Holiday Ice Revue

2:30PM AND 7:00PM

Join the Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association for its festive annual Holiday Ice Revue!

Our event finished with a short business meeting, where we elected our officers for next year, approved the 2023 budget and took care of other miscellaneous business.

November 2022 Askeladden member attendance: Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Karen Hare, Holly Jensen, Teri Koretsky, Alice Kraatz, Elizabeth Kraatz, Karen Jaegersen Kunze, Joan O'Bryan, Kris Spence, Gail Thompson-Hadley

Guests: Phil Kunze

Learning Norwegian with *Sett i Gang*

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

I want to share a wonderful resource if you're interested in learning a little Norwegian! I have been taking a series of Norwegian language classes through the Vesterheim museum. The text we're using (*Sett i Gang*) is excellent, straightforward, recently published (2016), but, like most textbooks, a little on the pricey side.

The textbook's authors, though, have created a companion website settigang.com that is available completely free to anyone who registers for an account - even if you haven't purchased a copy of the textbook. There are a wealth of resources available to anyone who takes the time to explore the site - vocabulary flashcards, interactive grammar exercises, video clips, links to resources around the web, and so much more!

It makes a wonderful companion to the textbook, but honestly it's a wonderful resource all on its own. Check it out and let me know what you think!

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Child Heroes and a Norse Saga

November's cold nights have found me enthralled with a wildly contrasting pair of Norwegian tales: the 1942 children's story, *Snow Treasure*, by Marie McSwigan and the epic Norwegian saga, *Kristin Lavransdatter*, written by Nobel laureate, Sigrid Undset, in 1920-22 and more recently translated into English by Tina Nunnally in 1997.

Many of you likely know the story of the courageous Norwegian children who raced past Nazi soldiers on their sleds every day for weeks with the hidden treasure of nine million dollars in gold bricks. While some doubt the story's veracity, the author contends she based her book on true events as related by Captain Johanessen of the ship which arrived in Baltimore in 1940 with Norway's reserves of gold bullion. According to the author, it took the 38 actual children six weeks to ride their sleds, not just 12 miles as in her book, but 35 miles from where the gold was stashed past the unsuspecting Nazi soldiers to the waiting Norwegian freighter hidden in a remote fjord. [The Story Behind "Snow Treasure": Did Norwegian Children Smuggle Gold Past Nazi Guards by Sledding Down the Mountains? | Curious Historian](#)

When I visited Norskedalen Nature and History Center in western Wisconsin this past fall for a class on Hardanger embroidery, I came away from their gift shop with the more than 1100-page Norse saga, *Kristin Lavransdatter*. We first see Kristin as a joyful child in the mountains with her devoted father, and then as the passionate young woman who flaunts her father's arrangements for a sensible marriage to Simon by giving herself to the charming but dangerous Erlend.

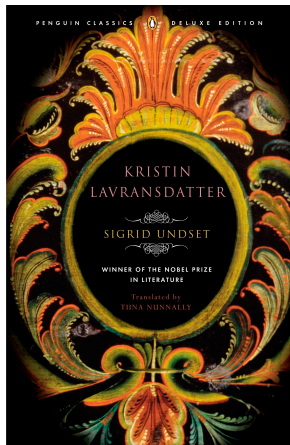
After reading 1,000 pages, I have experienced medieval times watching Kristin rise to the challenges of daily life when she was thrust into the management of her husband's run-down estate. Kristen continues to struggle with her guilt over past sins along with maintaining her relationship with her husband, family, and priests. The saga involves the broader themes of politics and confrontations between the king and feudal landowners as well as the role of the church and medieval magical beliefs.

With Kristin's story, the author presents detailed accounts of social conventions of the times, and we learn about 14th century marriage and infidelity, food, clothing, living arrangements, farming, feasting, illness, injury and many deaths. Kristin is a woman of intelligence, perseverance and much hard work but her joys and successes, like those of the other prime characters, are so often followed by misfortunes caused by their own flaws or simple bad luck from disasters of medieval life circumstances. Kristin struggles but she does persist. [Kristin Lavransdatter \(catholiceducation.org\)](#)

The Norwegian mountains and beautiful but rugged terrain play a prominent role in the saga. Kristin, Erlend, and their seven sons are exemplars of the physical skills and endurance required for life in 14th century Norway on skis, on horseback, or simply on foot through forests and over the mountains. As we enter winter, I recommend both *Snow Treasure* and *Kristin Lavransdatter* for courageous inspiration.

Please join with us for a holiday celebration Sunday, December 11.

Gail Thompson-Hadley



Askeladden Lodge 2023 scholarships

It's that time of year to start thinking about scholarships for next year. 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. Our 2023 budget allows for \$1000 unrestricted scholarships to be awarded to up to three qualifying students so make sure your membership dues are up to date.

The Scholarship Committee is planning to release the 2023 application and scholarship guidelines in January. The link will be published in the January newsletter. The due date for your student's application and the accompanying documentation, such as letters of recommendation, is March 15, 2023. Being awarded a Lodge scholarship one year neither precludes a student from winning or guarantees that student will win it in subsequent years.



Askeladden Lodge
118 Lanark Court
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

October 14, 2022

Greetings:

A world of thanks for your anniversary gift to us. In any language, that means we appreciate your thoughtfulness.

We passed around your card, marveling at its clever construction and completely missed the check. Apologies for the problems caused to your very patient Treasurer.

Again tusen takk,

Regards,

Gail Taggart

Treasurer, Sognefjord Lodge

Enar Ness

Jerry Bobbel

Ingvald Johansen

Steve Vold

Linda

+Merle

Hanson

Nancy Shiles & Stephen Lemay

Janne M. H.

Jan Njå

Kari Sivle Thanks so much!

Scott Hanson

Sons of Norway Hockey Team schedule

Curtis Cleveland

The following games, one hour in length, free to the public, are played at Wings West, north of exit 72, off I-94:

- Friday, December 9, 2022, 6:10 p.m., at Wings West
- Friday, December 16, 2022, 6:45 p.m., at Wings West
- Friday, January 6, 2023, 7:50 p.m., at Wings West
- Friday, January 20, 2023, 7:10 p.m., at Wings West
- Friday, January 27, 2023, 6:15 p.m., at Wings West



SONS of NORWAY

December
2022

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

DECEMBER KALENDER



- desember 6 - Finland's National Day - celebrating Finland's independence from the Russian Republic in 1917
- desember 10 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded in Oslo www.nobelprize.org
- **desember 11** - **Askeladden Lodge & Vasa - St. Lucia Festival 2 p.m.**
Fellowship Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church
504 S. Westnedge
- desember 13 - Luciadagen - St. Lucia Day
- desember 17 - Nordic Fellows Lutefisk Lunch 11:30 a.m. - prepay required
- desember 23 - Lille julaften - Little Christmas Eve
- desember 24 - Julaften - Christmas Eve
- desember 25 - Juledag - Christmas Day (6 p.m. St. Olaf telecast on PBS)
- desember 31 - Nyttårsaften - New Year's Eve
- desember 31 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles



Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

December Birthdays

Tore Ramstad
Harold Spencer Lilly
Karen Hare
Scott Bjerke
Secrete House
Sandra Santas
Marilyn Stewart-Loe
Daniel Hadley

God Jul!



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.