



# the ASKELADDEN news

January 2023

Sons of Norway • Askeladden Lodge 5-610 • Kalamazoo, Michigan  
*A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway*  
[facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge](https://facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge)

01-23

**Meetings:**

Sept - April: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, 2 p.m.  
May only: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 2 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church

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Joint Meeting with  
Askeladden, Sonja Henie, & Sognefjord Lodges  
**Sunday, January 8, 2 p.m. (online)**  
**The Scheffel Toy Project**  
**Gene Klco (pronounced Kelso), Speaker**  
*Meeting hosted by Sonja Henie Lansing Lodge*

Our speaker is a friend of our local Lansing lodge and President of the Scheffel Toy Project. What *is* this Project? It is an all-volunteer wooden toy production facility in Lansing that gives away every toy produced – and they produce a lot of them! Never heard of it? You are in for an interesting afternoon! Those of us who have heard Scheffel presentations before are looking forward to the update. If you are anxious to know more, visit <https://scheffel-toys.org/>.

If you know of anyone interested in wooden toys, volunteer work, “things Michigan,” . . . , please have them contact [SofNLansingMI@gmail.com](mailto:SofNLansingMI@gmail.com) so they get on the list to receive the link.

Why meet virtually? In planning meetings for the year, we recognized that January have been highly subject to anxiety, low attendance, and even cancellation due to weather when we have met in person. More importantly, we can share our meeting with our friends in **Kalamazoo** and **Muskegon!** It will be nice to see them again!

Judy Olson, Sonja Henie Lodge (Lansing)

Note: After the speaker, Askeladden Lodge will conduct a brief business meeting to nominate and elect our 2023 Auditing Committee.

The link to the online meeting will be emailed to Lodge members who have supplied email addresses the evening before the event.

# ASKELADDEN NEWS

## *In Memory*

Our lodge lost four Golden Members (30+ years S/N membership) in the past four months, three of whom were Askeladden Charter Members. Our condolences go out to the families of these precious people, every one of them beloved and a huge part of our lodge.

### **Louise Anne Adams (1932-2022)**

Our treasured friend, Louise Adams, passed away on December 17, at the age of 90, following a struggle with Alzheimer's disease. A Charter member of our lodge and Golden Sons of Norway member, Louise was deeply involved in our lodge and held leadership positions, including serving as our Treasurer, our Rosemaling Instructor, and coordinating the production of our newsletter for many years. Together with her husband, Dick, who survives, they gave a captivating presentation on their visit to L'Anse aux Meadows, the site of an 11<sup>th</sup> century Viking settlement in Newfoundland. Louise shared her Norwegian cultural knowledge by presenting programs, including a hands-on workshop on the Norwegian folk art of Rosemaling and a show-and-tell on Norwegian Bunads. Louise is remembered as a sweet woman, who always shared her time and talents. She is survived by her two children, son Andrew Adams, her daughter and son-in-law, Christine and Lester Batts, and several grandchildren. Services were held December 27 at Hope Lutheran Church in Plainwell. Our lodge provided a flower arrangement for the service.



Louise and Dick Adams at our 2008 Ice Crème Social at the home of Jean and Dennis Darling.  
*Photo by Phil Kunze*

### **Dennis E. Darling (1937-2022)**

Dennis E. Darling, Charter Member of Askeladden Lodge and Golden Member of Sons of Norway, passed away peacefully at Rose Arbor with Jean, his cherished wife of 58 years, at his side.

Dennis was deeply involved with our lodge from the early planning stages before our Charter was formed. He served as our President for four years, from 2007 to 2010, and held many important officer positions over the years. Dennis was an inspired leader and his commitment to the Sons of Norway was steadfast.

During Dennis' tenure as President, he and our lodge members participated in a major day-long cultural event in Rockford in 2010. Many an event-planning meeting and many more board meetings were held around the Darlings' dining room table over the years.

We remember Dennis' quick thinking and his creative and insightful suggestions for accomplishing any task.

Dennis is survived by his wife, Jean Darling, Charter Member of Askeladden and Golden Sons of Norway Member, son Chad Baver Darling, and beloved granddaughters, lodge members Lucie and Druanna Darling. Our heartfelt condolences go out to them.

A Celebration of Life service for Dennis will be held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage on Friday, January 20.

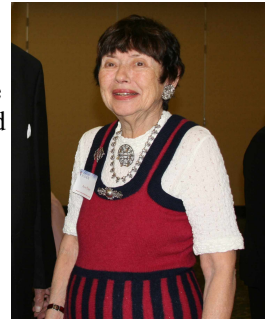


Dennis and Jean celebrating Epiphany in 2014 at the home of Karen and Phil Kunze.

*Photo by Phil Kunze*

### **Anne Hansteen M. Rapp (1937-2022)**

We were saddened to hear from her husband John that Askeladden Charter Member and Sons of Norway Golden Member Anne Rapp of Fort Myers, Florida, passed away on October 9, 2022, at the age of 85. Prior to Askeladden's charter by Sons of Norway in 1988, Anne belonged to the local group that formed our lodge: Friends of Norway, where she learned Norwegian folk dancing from Inger Thoen. Eventually the Rapp's moved permanently to their second home high on a hill in Harbert, overlooking Lake Michigan, making it difficult for her to attend our events. The last time we saw Anne before she moved to Ft. Myers, she and John arranged for our lodge to enjoy a delicious Nordic breakfast at a café near their beautiful lake home. Afterward, she and John led us on a tour of their amazing home. I'm sure anyone fortunate enough to have known Anne has fond memories of the extremely generous and graceful woman she was. Our hearts go out to John and her family.



Anne in 2018 at our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.



Louise, Dennis, and Anne all received their Golden Member pins in September 2018.

### ***Anne, remembered by her friend, Karin Code***

Anne loved her west coast Norwegian heritage. She used to meet with Inger Thoen and me for Norwegian language classes several times a month in the mid-1990s. She still had a Bergen dialect from many years back speaking Norwegian as a child and after she went to University of Oslo. John's and her home on the point of Midvale and Bronson Boulevard was like a folk art museum. They had collected many chests and armoires during their travels to Europe. There were many painted furniture items in their home as well as stunning artworks. There were a lot of Norwegian crafts displayed in the home as well. Anne introduced me to a Swedish bakery on the west side of the state near her second home in Harbert. She was such a supporter of Norwegian music both folk and classical, sponsoring performances by myself and my family's fiddling group. She helped get Norwegian Hardanger fiddle music introduced to our Askeladden Lodge and its accompanying folk dances. I will remember her in her traditional styled and elegant black, white and red wool dress that she often wore to our special cultural events.

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## *Fra Presidenten*

### **Velkommen to 2023!**

Most of us had quite the White Christmas with our holiday blizzard of heavy snow. Once the high winds abated, I hope you were able to enjoy some time on cross country skis, snowshoes, sleds, or get out for a walk in the brisk winter air for Norwegian style “friluftsliv.”

I did get out back with my family for another snowshoe trek while they were on skis with the youngest pulled in our big sled. Then the warm weather and rains melted our lovely snow until the next round of winter in SW Michigan.

The winter holidays are often bittersweet as we miss those who are gone but we can reflect on past joys with family and old friends. We are saddened by the recent loss this winter of several of our long-time Askeladden members. We hold their memories fondly in our hearts.

As we look forward to the start of the New Year, you might consider what aspect of your Norwegian heritage you would like to learn more about or which Norwegian skills you would like to improve. Perhaps we can join together to explore Norwegian history, literature, baking, language, or any of the various folk arts or share with each other what we have learned on our own.

Please join us for our joint meeting via Zoom with the program presented by a good friend of the Sonja Henie Lodge on Sunday, January 8, at 2 p.m. We will have a brief business meeting after the program concludes to ask for volunteers for our Audit Committee and vote to approve them.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

## **2023 Askeladden Scholarship Opportunities**

*Holly Jensen, 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 2023 budget allows for up to three \$1,000 scholarships.

Applications and required documents for the 2023 Askeladden Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarships are due to Holly Jensen by March 15, 2023. The online application form with guidelines can be downloaded and then edited here:

<http://bit.ly/3rAZ6uT>

Please contact Holly Jensen at (269) 598-5523 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.

## *Membership News*

### **Velkommen to Askeladden!**

We welcome our newest members to our lodge: Laurene and Robert Swanson, who were recruited by Diane and Jeff Andert; Secrete House who was recruited by Karen Hare; and Scott Bjerke and Duncan Bjerke. We expect you to make new friends and many special memories in the coming years.

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to lodge member Druanna M. Darling, granddaughter of Jean and Dennis Darling, who received her Master of Social Work degree from The University of Michigan on December 17. Druanna earned her Bachelor degree in 2019 from Kalamazoo College. Druanna's stated aspirations during the commencement ceremony: “My hopes for my social work career include helping children and families end intergenerational trauma and involvement in the child welfare system.” We are so excited for Druanna!

## **December meeting recap: Sankta Lucia**

*Holly Jensen, Vasa Lucia Fest Director*

It was a wonderful beginning of the Jul Season for our Lodge on December 11 with the celebration of Sankta Lucia (December 13).

Our own Alice Kraatz, as Sankta Lucia, attended by lodge members Abigail Renoos and James Kraatz were resplendent actors in telling this ancient Nordic tale to appreciative Askeladden and Vasa Satellite Lodge members and guests.

A scrumptious smorgasbord of Jul-time treats and beverages were enjoyed by all. Mange takk to Elizabeth Kraatz for making the beautiful Kransekake and traditional Lucia Buns.

Father Christmas (Kris Spence) discovered that we did indeed have some good ‘barn’ with us that day.

To our delight, Inger Thoen joined our celebration of light's return.

All this fun would not have been possible without the help of so many, especially Karn Erlandson and Kris Spence. Tusen takk.

Written by your resident nisse: Holly Jensen

*December 2022 Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Karen Hare, Secrete House, Holly Jensen, Alice Kraatz, Elizabeth Kraatz, James Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Abigail Renoos, Daniel Renoos, Kris Spence, Jamie Stafne, Laurene Swanson, Robert Swanson, Inger Thoen, Gail Thompson-Hadley. Guests: Rodney Hokenson, Adam House, Sandy Wiseman, Lindsay Zoellnet Contact Joan O'Bryan with any corrections.*








# SONS of NORWAY

January  
2023

## Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

## JANUAR KALENDER

-  • Januar 1 - Nyttårsdag - New Year's Day
- Januar 6 - Helligtrekongersdag - Epiphany
- **Januar 8** - **Askeladden Lodge virtual meeting 2 p.m.**
- Januar 16 - Sønner av Norge - Sons of Norway founded, 1895
-  • Januar 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
-  • Januar 21 - H.R.H. Princess Ingrid Alexandra 2004
- Februar 3 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles.

### Gratulerer med dagen!

*Fødselsdag Hilsener*

### January Birthdays

Brett Jensen	Scott Erickson
Karn Erlandson	Magnus Selden
Aric Nesbitt	Yael Astrid Lilly

NOTICE: January's meeting is an **online** event only. Join us from your computer, tablet, or smart phone.

### Askeladden Lodge Library

[www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway](http://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.