



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

February 2023

02-23

Meetings:

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

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

Trinity Lutheran Church

Officers:

President: Gail Thompson-Hadley

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glthadley@gmail.com

Vice-President/Acting

Membership Secretary/Editor:

Joan O'Bryan

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Curtis Cleveland

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Elizabeth Kraatz

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1455 West Lake St.

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Cheryl Wille - Schlessler, President,

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Benefits Counselor:

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Sunday, February 12, 2 p.m. Norwegian Show and Tell Trinity Lutheran Church



We invite you to bring a favorite Norwegian cultural artifact to the February meeting. It could be a family recipe, a bunad, a piece of rosemaling, a sweater, a letter, or... anything that prompts a story or a reflection that you can share with the lodge. Think of it as “show and tell” for grown-ups. But not only grown-ups. We would love to see what our youth members would like to share! Considering our lodge members’ diverse interests and backgrounds, it promises to be an educational, interesting, eclectic and revealing program!

Please bring a dish to pass for our 2 p.m. meal. Coffee, water, and table service will be provided

After our meal, we will install our 2023 officers, and then proceed with our Norwegian cultural heritage “show and tell.”

You will have an opportunity to sign up to march in the St. Patrick’s Day parade and also an opportunity to list your service hours if you haven’t done so already.

Please note that **there is a new entrance at the back of the church** to our downstairs meeting area.

Askeladden members are encouraged to bring family and friends for both the meal and program.

Michigan Nordic Fire Festival - February 24 - 26

Did you know? Askeladden Lodge is one of the sponsors of the annual Michigan Nordic Fire Festival in Charlotte that takes place annually the last weekend of February.

Beginning with the burning of a Viking long boat Friday evening, and lasting the entire weekend, the Festival has expanded even more this year with many bands performing, a Viking feast (already sold out), and many other events. Visit the website to get event information, ticket information and to sign up for volunteer opportunities. www.michigannordicfirefestival.com

The second Sunday in February is Mother’s Day “Morsdag” in Norway, so Askeladden Lodge wishes a **Happy Mother’s Day** to all the moms out there!

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

January meeting: The Scheffel Toy Project

Joan O'Bryan, Acting Membership Secretary

Seventeen members of Askeladden Lodge joined Sonja Henie Lodge (Lansing) and Sognefjord Lodge (Muskegon) for an informative and inspiring online program in January. We appreciate Judy Olson of Sonja Henie for arranging the guest speaker and hosting the program. We also thank our wonderful speaker Gene Klco who shared many experiences and photos of this industrious and beneficial Michigan-based volunteer organization.

January 2023 Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Karen Hare, Barb Heffner, Holly Jensen, Elizabeth Kraatz, Vanier Lander, Gwen Meredith, Joan O'Bryan, Dr. John Riggs, Sandra Santas, Kris Spence, Gail Thompson-Hadley, Crystal Walvoord and Astrid Willis

Guests: Speaker Gene Klco

Visitors: many members of the Lansing and Muskegon lodges were in attendance. Contact Joan O'Bryan with any attendance corrections.

2023 Askeladden Scholarships

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 in one document here: <http://bit.ly/3rAZ6uT>

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

Members Requested to Report Service Hours

Karen Hare, Lodge Secretary

Each year, Sons of Norway lodges are required to report their members' total community and fraternal service hours in order to maintain non-profit tax status. The Lodge Secretary must report these hours by March 15.

Community Support: If you served on an Askeladden committee or helped with an Askeladden project that served the local community, please report these events and hours. Examples include the Scholarship Committee and attendance at our lodge sponsored Ice Hockey Team games or Kalamazoo Skating Association competitions.

Fraternal Support: If you attended a lodge meeting in-person or via Zoom, helped plan a program or event for the lodge members, or if you provided other services to the lodge such as preparing reports, contributing to the newsletter, contacting members, or other services, please list those activities and hours.

These vital details and numbers for 2022 are gathered and submitted by Karen Hare. Please send her an email with your information via astutekaren@gmail.com or ring / text her at (269) 568-9797. Many thanks!

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.

GKSA to compete in the 2023 Nationals

James Kraatz (Member of Askeladden Lodge & GKSA)

The Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association (GKSA) fields several synchronized ("synchro") skating teams under the name "Kalamazoo Kinetic." Skaters are selected for each team based on eligibility criteria set by the US Figure Skating Association, such as age and skating ability. One of the teams – the Masters – comprises only skaters who are 25 years or older. Although I am not skating on a synchro team this year, one of my coaches is, and she's a member of this team.

You may have watched the Kalamazoo Kinetic Masters team compete at the start of the season, at the Kalamazoo Kickoff Synchro competition in November. Their routine has gotten much more polished since then, and they've been very successful in all of the qualifying competitions. So successful,



The GKSA Masters Team at a recent competition. James' coach (Jessica LaPorte) is in the first row, the first person on the left.

in fact, that they're going to be competing against four other Masters teams in the 2023 National Competition, which will take place March 1-4 in the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria Illinois. The competition schedule hasn't yet been finalized, but according to the tentative schedule, the Masters teams will compete at 3:45 p.m. Central Time on March 2. You should be able to watch them compete live through the USFS fan website: usfigureskatingfanzone.com. The website currently shows information about last year's competition, but it should be updated with this year's information, final schedule, and links before March 1.

Thank you, Askeladden Lodge, for your continuing support of the GKSA!

Sons of Norway Hockey Team Schedule

Curtis Cleveland

Friday, February 3	8:30 p.m., Wings West
Friday, February 10	9:35 p.m., Wings West
Friday, February 17	6:45 p.m., Wings West
Friday, February 24	8:25 p.m., Wings West
Friday, March 3	8:30 p.m., Wings West

The above games of the Sons of Norway Hockey Team, lasting one hour and free to the public, are played at Wings West, located north of exit 72 off of I-94.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Norwegian Family & Cultural Artifacts

A prime way we access our Norwegian cultural history is with precious Norwegian items we have inherited from our ancestors or perhaps collected on trips back to Norway. Some of us have even constructed Norwegian folk art ourselves with guidance from family members, friends, or organizations such as Sons of Norway or the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum.

In an effort to learn about Norwegian cultural history from our own Askeladden members and friends, we ask you to bring an item with you to our February 12th program. You might have a piece of rosemaling, a carved item, a

Membership News

Congratulations, Karen Kunze!

Askeladden Charter Member and Sons of Norway Golden Member Karen Kunze is celebrating her milestone 80th birthday this month. Karen, thank you for all of your many contributions to our lodge over the years. We are so fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated person in our lodge. You are much appreciated! Happy Birthday!

Norwegian bunad or sweater, a book, a letter, a photograph of your family Norwegian homestead or Norwegian-American immigrant items.

After our traditional Sunday meal and social time together, and the installation of our 2023 officers, we will take turns sharing a little something about our Norwegian “show and tell” items.

One of my very special Norwegian-American artifacts is the 1927 edition of Ole Rolvaag’s *Giants in the Earth*. As I re-read this classic book, I imagined my father reading it as a 13-year old whose Norwegian immigrant parents would have given it to him in California almost a century ago.

Sons of Norway members and friends, please join us on Sunday, February 12, to learn more about our Norwegian cultural heritage.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Askeladden 2023 Officers & Committees

President: Gail Thompson-Hadley
Vice President: Joan O’Bryan
Secretary: Karen Hare
Membership Sec.: Joan O’Bryan (Acting)
Treasurer: Curtis Cleveland
Cultural Director: Elizabeth Kraatz

Co-Social Directors: Jeff & Diane Andert
Sports & Recreation Director: Curt Osborn
Publicity Director: Kris Spence
Foundation Director: Curtis Cleveland
Newsletter Editor: Joan O’Bryan
Publisher: Judy Hande-Skutnick

Support Officers:

Norwegian Language: Astrid Willis
Counselor: Elizabeth Kraatz
Historian: Curtis Cleveland
Librarian: Curtis Cleveland
Webmaster: Karn Erlandson
Sunshine: Arden Hetletvedt
Tubfrim: Holly Jensen

Committees:

Cultural: Elizabeth Kraatz, Chair
Members: Holly Jensen, Van Lander
Social: Jeff and Diane Andert, Co-Chairs
Members: Van Lander
Membership: Joan O’Bryan, Chair
Members: Karn Erlandson, Curtis Cleveland
Publicity: Kris Spence, Chair
Members: Joan O’Bryan, Elizabeth Kraatz, Curtis Cleveland
Sports and Recreation: Curt Osborn, Chair
Members: Van Lander
Scholarship: Holly Jensen, Chair
Members: Jeff Andert, Joan O’Bryan
Finance: Curtis Cleveland, Chair
Members: Joyce Hare, Kris Spence
Audit: Judy Hande-Skutnick, Chair
Members: Holly Jensen, Diane Andert
Norway Trip: Chair, vacant
Member: Joan O’Bryan

Join the Vikings at the St. Patrick’s Day Parade!





We ask you - and your kids! - to join our lodge for the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade put on by the Irish American Club of Kalamazoo. The parade is Saturday morning, March 11. We provide the costumes as long as you sign up in advance, making it easy for you to show up and participate. The parade route is only 6 blocks long, but you should consider the walking distance to and from your car, which may be parked some distance away for this popular parade. You can sign up at our February meeting or contact [Joan O’Bryan](#). We gather at 10:30 a.m. Parade kickoff is 11 a.m. and is over by noon. Come and join the fun!



Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

FEBRUAR KALENDER

-  • Februar 6 - *Samenes Nasjonaldag* - Sámi National Day
- Februar 12 - HH Princess Astrid, 1932
- Februar 12 - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting** 2 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church
- Februar 12 - *Morsdag* - Mother's Day in Norway
- Februar 14 - Valentine's Day ♡
-  • Februar 15 - National Flag Day of Canada
-  • Februar 20 - President's Day, United States
-  • Februar 21 - H.M. King Harald V 1937
- Februar 21 - *Fastelavn* - Norwegian Mardi Gras
- Februar 23 - **Barnebirkie & Barkie Birkie**, Hayward, WI
- Februar 24-26 - **Michigan Nordic Fire Festival** - Charlotte, MI
- Februar 25 - American Birkebeiner, Hayward, WI www.birkie.com
- Februar 28 - Last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

February Birthdays

Gabriella Croce

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Barbara Heffner

Elizabeth Santas Kraatz

Karen Jaegersen Kunze

Brent Roble

Crystal Walvoord

