



the ASKELADDEN news

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

March 2023

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

03-23

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Meetings:

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

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

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Sunday, March 12, 2 p.m. The Hjemkomst Expedition Trinity Lutheran Church

We will watch the heartwarming - and sometimes nail-biting - 1986 documentary *The Hjemkomst of Robert Asp* at our March gathering.

Robert Asp was a guidance counselor at a Moorhead, Minnesota junior high school. Near his retirement, he had a dream to celebrate his Norwegian heritage. In the early 1970's, Asp decided to build a replica Viking ship and sail it to Norway! The ship, modeled after the famous Gokstad Viking ship, would be called the Hjemkomst, which means "homecoming."



It took eight years to construct the ship, first cutting the large oak trees, then constructing the ship. The ship was transported 200 miles to Duluth, Minnesota, where it was placed into the waters of Lake Superior for the trial run. Two years later, in 1982, after finally making it ocean-ready, the Hjemkomst made the treacherous 6,000-mile Atlantic ocean voyage from New York City to first Bergen, Norway; and ultimately to Oslo, Norway.

Please bring a dish to pass for our 2 p.m. shared meal. Coffee, water, and table service will be provided. After the meal, we will immediately proceed with our Norwegian cultural program, followed by a very brief business meeting. You will have an opportunity to give Karen Hare 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.

Join the Vikings at the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 11!

We ask you - and your kids! - to join us for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Kalamazoo, Saturday morning, March 11. Wear your own Viking gear or we will provide costumes as long as you sign up in advance. We will gather at 10:30 near the Comerica Building in W. Exchange Place to don Viking costumes created by Holly Jensen. Parade kicks off at 11 am, and we will gather behind the KDPS Pipe & Drum Corps closer to that time. The parade route is only 6 blocks long and the streets are heated! Please contact parade coordinator Joan O'Bryan and come and join the fun!

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

In Memoriam

Remembering Jeanne (Gilbertson) Willinger

We were saddened to hear that Askeladden member Jeanne Willinger, age 97, passed away on February 13. Jeanne was an active member of our lodge and despite the pandemic, we were fortunate to see her at Zoom meetings and at our summer picnic in Marshall in 2021 with her daughter, Joanna Phelps. Jean turned 95 just as the pandemic was keeping most of us isolated. I talked to her at the time and she was so proud of her four Norwegian grandparents who had settled near Coon Valley, Wisconsin.



Astrid Willis, Jeanne Willinger, and Joanna Stelloh Phelps at our summer picnic in Marshall in July 2021.

A memorial service to celebrate Jeanne's life was held February 17 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Battle Creek. Fortunately, the treacherous weather from the day before cleared so some lodge members (other than the Battle Creek-area people) were able to attend the service. At the luncheon, her daughter, Joanna, having been brought up in a true Norwegian household, sang the Norwegian Table Prayer before our meal. We have fond memories of Jeanne and always looked forward to the lefse she brought to almost every one of our gatherings.



Astrid, Jeanne, Vaniar Lander, Joanna, and Barb Heffner in Marshall, July 2021.

photos courtesy of Astrid Willis

We express our condolences to Jeanne's beloved family, especially Joanna and Peter Phelps.

February meeting: Norwegian Show & Tell

Joan O'Bryan, Acting Membership Secretary

Seventeen members of Askeladden Lodge gathered for a fun and informal cultural program where we each brought an item from Norway to show and tell about. We began with a shared meal and then installed our 2023 officers since we met online in January. We ended with a business meeting where we decided to create an opportunity for those interested to learn some basic Norwegian (see article on this page.)

February 2023 Askeladden Member attendance: Dick Adams, Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Karen Hare, Elizabeth Kraatz, Vaniar Lander, Joan O'Bryan, Sandra Santas, David Sherman, Terese Sherman, Kris Spence, Bob Swanson, Laurie Swanson, Gail Thompson-Hadley, and Astrid Willis

Please contact Joan O'Bryan with any attendance corrections.

Learn Norwegian with Askeladden

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

Several Lodge members are attempting to learn Norwegian through various means (Babbel, Duolingo, Vesterheim, the SON website, CDs – you name it!) Wouldn't it be great if we could get together and support each other on this journey?

For those who are interested, the first meeting of the Askeladden Lodge Norwegian Language Exploration group will be on March 15 at 10:30 in the Marshall Public Library conference room (124 W. Green Street, Marshall MI). The meeting will be available on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. We also plan to record the session and will post the recording online for anyone not available March 15.

Although we are fortunate to have the guidance of native speaker, Astrid Willis, this will not be a formal class with one person teaching. It is intended to be a source of support, encouragement and basic practice as we try to learn a little conversational Norwegian.

The Marshall Library was chosen to allow us to better serve our Lodge members who live in that area of the state. Coincidentally, it is about midway between Lansing and Kalamazoo, so Sonja Henie Lodge members are welcome to join us, strengthening the bond between our two lodges. It also provides an opportunity for community outreach in Marshall, and wouldn't it be wonderful if we were to attract new SON members from Marshall and the surrounding area?

Michigan's famous Schuler's restaurant is less than a block from the library. Chit-chat in English might help our brains recover from the strain of trying to stretch our mouths around Norwegian words. Those who are so inclined would be welcome to gather at one of the local establishments over lunch!

Please share this information with anyone in your circle of acquaintances who may be interested in joining us.

Deadline nears for Lodge Scholarships

Holly Jensen, Scholarship Chairperson

This is your final reminder: Holly must **receive** applications and all required documents by the March 15 deadline.

If you have **children** or **grandchildren** starting college or continuing as an undergraduate student next year, they can be considered for a scholarship awarded by Askeladden Lodge. The 2023 budget allows for up to three \$1,000 scholarships.

The application form/guidelines can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3rAZ6uT>

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

To request a matching Lodge grant for Masse Moro, contact Treasurer Curtis Cleveland. For information on any Masse Moro scholarships, forms or deadlines, contact [Joan O'Bryan](#).

Sons of Norway Hockey Team Schedule

Curtis Cleveland

Saturday, March 11	5:45 p.m.	Wings West
Friday, March 24	10:40 p.m.	Wings West
Friday, March 31	6 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.

ASKELADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Viking Fire Festival

Greetings from State College PA where I am visiting my daughter and Askeladden member, Katie, and family. I am sad to have missed this weekend's snow, especially when I saw photos from younger daughter and Askeladden member, Christine, of the family out back on snowshoes.

Joan O'Bryan and I had a fabulous adventure February 24 and 25 at the Michigan Nordic Fire Festival. I plan to attend again next year after enjoying the events and all the awesome Viking-era vendors in tents at the Eaton County Fairgrounds near Charlotte along with terrific music in the "Mead Hall" tent by Belfast Gin Friday evening.

Instituted in 2016, the Friday evening opening of the festival featured the traditional burning of a 15-20 foot replica Viking ship. There were four giant propane torches which added towering flames to the nighttime sky. Most of the dozens of Viking-era vendors were in period garb as were many of those in attendance. Reports stated that about 3,500 people entered the gates on Friday evening and the grounds were even more packed on Saturday.

I was particularly enthralled with the wide variety of animal skins worn by festival goers as well as those in the tents selling their crafts, metalwork, jewelry, clothes and food. The head of a taxidermist family explained to me that in Canada, rather than being an endangered species, wolves are considered pests to cattle ranchers and so are allowed to be shot and their warm, thickly-furred soft pelts are available for sale. Note his prize white wolf skin which he draped around my shoulders for a photo!



Viking Era Metal Helmet

Dragon images were in abundance from laser or hand-burned engravings to wood carvings, photographs, and paintings. We watched archery and ax-throwing events and saw a jousting-style game for children called "Boffers" plus a tent with "Kids Quest Challenges."

I sampled only two brands of mead over the two days. I met a pair of women from a Kent City area farm in NW Michigan who collect honey and conduct weekend classes on mead production.

Business Meeting: After our program of the documentary on Bob Asp's Viking Ship, we will have a brief business meeting to include treasurer, membership, scholarship, and audit committee reports.

Due to Easter conflicting with our normal meeting week, we will meet jointly with Vasa on the **first** Sunday of April: Holly Jensen will lead us in the construction of Nordic Easter decorations.

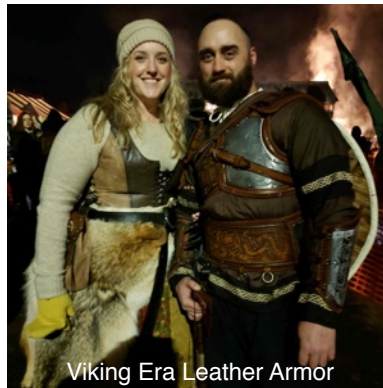
I hope you will join us at the parade on Saturday, at our monthly meeting on Sunday, and at our language lesson in Marshall (or by Zoom) the following Wednesday!



Viking sisters run Boffers game



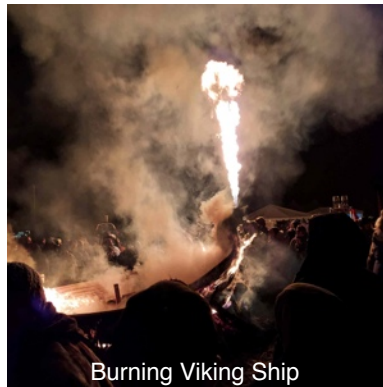
Gail and the Wolf Man



Viking Era Leather Armor



Runic Alphabet & Tree of Life Engraving



Burning Viking Ship



Rear view



Front view



SONS of NORWAY

March
2023

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

MARS KALENDER

- mars 8 - *Den Internasjonale Kvinnedagen* - International Women's Day
- mars 8 - Commonwealth Day (Canada)
- mars 11 - St. Patrick's Day Parade - meet at 10:30 in W Exchange Alley
- mars 12 - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting 2 p.m. - Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo**
Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. - spring forward!
- mars 15 - **Askeladden Norwegian Language session** - Marshall Public Library or Zoom (link emailed to you the evening before)
- mars 15 - **Askeladden Lodge Scholarship applications due**
- mars 15 - **District 5 Scholarship applications due:** Academic Scholarship, Folk High School, and International Summer School, find applications and instructions at <https://sonsofnorway5.com>
- mars 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- mars 20 - *Vårjevndøgn* - Vernal Equinox, First day of Spring
- mars 24 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles
- april 1 - Deadline to register and submit registration fee for Masse Moro. Visit <https://www.massemoro.org>
- april 2 - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting 2 p.m.**

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener **March Birthdays**

Betsy Fish	Andrew Sherman
Richard Adams	Christina Sherman
Druanna Darling	David Sherman
Margaret Schmieding	Joan O'Bryan
Esden.Stafne	Audrey Renoos
Dawn McLaughlin	Arden L. Hetletvedt
Esther Ann Brown	Diane Andert

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.