



# 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](https://facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge)

May 2023

05-23

#### 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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## May 21 (Third Sunday) 2-5 p.m.

# Syttende Mai

## Trinity Lutheran Church

### 504 S Westnedge Ave

**Askeladden Lodge invites our members and friends, and those of Sonja Henie and Vasa Satellite Lodge, to celebrate Norway's Constitution Day.**

**Barnetog:** We will begin with the traditional barnetog, or children's parade, so if you have local family or friends with children, we encourage you to join us for a parade around the church grounds, weather permitting.

#### Food with Friends:

Following the parade, we will proceed with a meal and social time when we can enjoy visiting with friends – long-time and new. Askeladden Lodge will provide platters of cold cuts, cheeses, and breads. We ask our members and friends to bring a side dish to share. We plan for you to make your own Norwegian waffles at the event, and we will provide the batter and toppings. Table service and drinks will also be provided.



Astrid's childhood school in the 2018 Oslo Barnetog

**Scholarship Winners:** Askeladden Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Holly Jensen, will present the 2023 scholarship awards.

**Syttende Mai in Norway with Astrid:** We will watch a recording narrated by Norwegian-born Askeladden member, Astrid Willis, of her family photos and videos from her own Syttende Mai celebrations in Oslo a few years ago.

**Food Drive:** May is one of our two annual food drive months, so we ask you to consider bringing non-perishable food and/or writing a check to one of the regional food banks (see page 2 article for details).

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

# ASKELADDEN NEWS

## Aquavit

*Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director*

Aquavit is having something of a “moment” right now, so when a Vesterheim class on the subject opened up, I thought it would be fun to sign up and learn a little more about this liquor that is integral to all Scandinavian cultures.

The name comes from the Latin “Aquae vitae” or “the water of life” and it was thought to possess curative powers. The earliest recorded reference to aquavit is found in a letter accompanying aquavit sent as a gift in 1531 to the last Roman Catholic Archbishop of Norway, and the writer assures the recipient that aquavit “is a help for all sort of illness which a man can have both internally and externally.”

All aquavit is made by flavoring a neutral grain or potato spirit with herbs and botanicals, such as caraway, cardamom, cumin, anise, coriander or dill. Each Scandinavian country has its own style of Aquavit. The Danish style is clear and very herbal with a strong caraway flavor. The Swedish style is lightly sweet and aged for less than one year, resulting in a hay-tinged color. Norwegians prefer an oak barrel-aged aquavit, such as Lysholm Linie, which has crossed the equator at least twice before being bottled. Prolonged exposure to a ship’s movement, humidity, and temperature fluctuations during this aging process contributes to the unique style of Norwegian aquavit. There is an emerging American style of aquavit, which you can sample for yourself if you purchase a bottle produced by a Michigan distillery, such as Long Road or Norden Barrel aquavit.

Traditionally it’s served ice cold in a shot glass, but it has been gaining traction in craft cocktail bars. We made and sampled several aquavit cocktails during the Vesterheim class, but the cocktail recipe below was the nearly unanimous favorite of all the class participants.

### FIG JAM SOUR

1 Tbsp fig jam or spread (may substitute another jam or even maple syrup)

½ oz lemon juice

½ oz triple sec

1 oz aquavit

1 egg white (may substitute aquafaba – white bean liquid)

Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker and stir to combine. Then dry shake (no ice) vigorously for 15-30 seconds. Add ice and shake vigorously for 15-30 more seconds. Pour into a coupe glass or wine glass. Garnish with an orange slice or star anise.

### Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp July 16-29

Contact Joan O’Bryan **soon** for matching grant and/or scholarship information!

## April meeting recap: Påskris

*Joan O’Bryan, Acting Membership Secretary*

Fourteen Askeladden Lodge members, many Vasa members, and a visitor from another lodge were in attendance at the joint April event with Vasa, which took place a week early due to the Easter holiday. The event began with attendees picking out pussy willow branches and cementing them into a container with plaster of Paris. We then enjoyed a scrumptious buffet while the plaster hardened up. Holly Jensen then guided us into trimming our Easter (Påske) arrangement with colorful feathers and beautifully dyed eggs, which she had prepared in advance for us. Everyone enjoyed creating their Påskris and proudly showed them off. We were each given an egg container to transport our fragile eggs all the way home. We ended our April event with a business meeting.

*April 2023 Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Esther Ann Brown, Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Carolyn Hande, Judy Hande-Skutnick, Karen Hare, Holly Jensen, Joan O’Bryan, David Sherman, Terese Sherman, Kris Spence, Gail Thompson-Hadley Visitor: Kaaren DeWitt*

Please contact Joan O’Bryan with any attendance corrections.

## Member News

### Welcome new members!

Askeladden Lodge extends a warm welcome to our newest members:

**Kaaren and Kerry DeWitt**, from Caledonia. Kaaren is a transfer member from Sonja Henie Lodge in Lansing. She attended our April meeting with Vasa, so many of us have met her! Gary Lee, President of Sonja Henie who recently passed away, was Kaaren’s uncle.

We are thrilled these members have chosen to join our lodge! Velkommen!

## Sons of Norway Hockey Team leadership change

*Curtis Cleveland*

Effective for the 2023-24 season, Ben McRae is the new Captain/General Manager of the Sons of Norway Hockey Team.

Ben will replace Patrick Skinner, who has been the Captain/General Manager for the past six seasons, from 2017 to 2023.

The Sons of Norway Hockey Team, a member of the Kalamazoo Adult Hockey League, was organized in 2011. Askeladden Lodge member Brandon Feringa was one of the organizers of the team. In August 2011, the lodge membership agreed to sponsor the team.

Besides Patrick and Ben, the hockey team has been led by two other persons. Tom Schripsema was the first Caption/General Manager, serving two seasons, from 2011 to 2013. Terry Pingel was the leader for four seasons, from 2013 to 2017.

Ben, Patrick, and the other team members have been invited to our Syttende Mai Celebration

## Spring Food Drive

Our Syttende Mai Celebration traditionally includes a food drive supporting Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes and other area food banks. Please consider bringing a bag of non-perishable food to donate to Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes.

Askeladden will also collect monetary donations to the food banks. We ask you to consider bringing a check (or envelope with cash) for one of the following food banks:

- *South Michigan Food Bank* located in Battle Creek and serving Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and 6 other counties;
- *Feeding America: West Michigan* located in Grand Rapids and serving Van Buren, Cass, Allegan, and 37 other counties;
- *Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes*



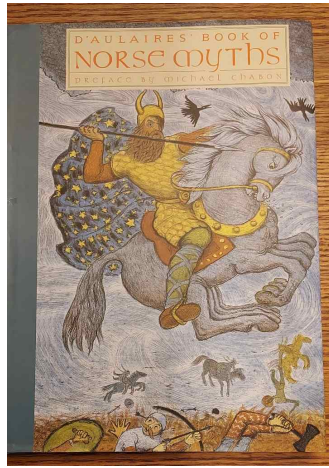
# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Fra Presidenten

### Nordic Myths and Syttende Mai Celebration

A few years ago, I discovered the beautifully illustrated children's books of Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire. I gave *D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths*, to my grandchildren but hadn't read the entire book myself until now as I am exploring my way through the tales of Odin, Loki, and the other wondrous characters while here in Eagle River visiting my son and family.

In his introduction, Michael Chabon writes that the D'Aulaires created the world of the Norse gods, men, and giants in a stunning series of lithographs with loving, whimsical and brutal delicacy "conjured against darkness...around a fire, in a camp at the edges of a continent-sized forest, under a sky black with snow clouds... Everything that is beautiful, in the Norse world, is something that glints: sparks from ringing hammers, stars, gold and gems, the Aurora borealis, tooled swords and helmets and armbands, fire, a woman's hair, wine and mead in a golden cup." Here the tales of the gods, like humans, are that of "hospitality and revenge, gift-giving and life-taking, oaths sworn, dooms pronounced, cruel and unforgettable pranks" and both darkness and light.



Chabon describes the D'Aulaires' illustrations as "spectacular and quirky" with prose that is both "straightforward and magical...of the Norse world, with its odd blend of gorgeousness and violence, its wild prodigies and grim humor." Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire produced the artwork and prose jointly as a team and originally used stone lithography for the illustrations. Each illustration of four colors needed four slabs of Bavarian limestone weighing up to two hundred pounds each which helped produce their brilliant colors.

Edgar's father was an Italian portrait painter and Ingri could trace her heritage back to the Viking kings. They met in art school in Munich and immigrated to New York where the New York Public Library's children's librarian saw Ingri's art work and encouraged her to create children's books. They published *Ola* in 1932. Their Caldecott award-winning book, *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*, was published in 1962 and with their other books based on Scandinavian folklore, served as inspiration for Marvel Comics and *Lord of the Rings*.

**Syttende Mai Celebration:** please join us for our Syttende Mai celebration on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2 p.m. for a shared meal followed by various events including introduction of our 2023 Askeladden scholarship winners and a program featuring the Syttende Mai photos and videos from Oslo which lodge member Astrid Willis prepared for us in 2021. We encourage you to bring family and friends, and especially children who might want to march in our own *barnetog*, children's parade, as they do all over Norway on Constitution Day.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

### Askeladden 2023 Scholarships Announced

Holly Jensen, Scholarship Committee Chairperson

The Scholarship Committee of Askeladden Lodge is happy to announce the recipients of the 2023 Myrtle Beinhauer Askeladden Lodge Scholarships.

Congratulations to: **Mai Elise Code, Charles Hetletvedt and Kate Phillips.**



Mai Elise Code will attend her second year at Kalamazoo College in the Fall. She has been an active member of Askeladden Lodge since childhood. She played violin for us at various meetings and celebrations, portrayed St. Lucia in our Jul pageant, walked with us in various Kalamazoo parades, and not the least of a long list: she speaks Norwegian! Mai Elise has an impressive academic record at K-College and is focusing her studies on Early Education and Library Sciences. Mai Elise is the daughter of lodge members David and Karin Code.

Charles (Charlie) Hetletvedt will be a first-year student at Western Michigan University in the fall. Currently he resides with his immediate family in Tunis, Africa. A talented artist, Charlie intends to major in Graphic Design and Secondary Art Education. His Tunisian school faculty describe him as: dynamic, kind, enthusiastic, talented, and "a true global citizen." Charlie is the grandson of lodge member Arden and Ruth Hetletvedt.

Kate Phillips will be a first-year student at the University of Michigan in the fall. Kate participated in parades, rode Fjord horses, danced and sang around the Juletre with our lodge. Kate is active in many Mattawan community service organizations. She is an exemplary student and accomplished musician at Mattawan High School. Described as a mature, determined, and positive leader "wise beyond her years", Kate is considering a career in medicine. Kate is the daughter of lodge member Sondra Phillips and granddaughter of Golden and Charter member Karen Jaegeron Kunze.

Askeladden Lodge congratulates all of our 2023 scholarship winners and wishes them every success in their collegiate futures.

### How Do You Say "Seven" in Norwegian?

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

Did you know that there are two words for *seven* in Norwegian? That's just one of the many fascinating things I learned in the lodge's most recent Norwegian Language Discussion Group. Both *syv* (pronounced "siv") and *sju* (pronounced "shoo") mean the same thing, but why two words? Even Astrid, whose mother tongue is Norwegian, didn't know. So, being 21<sup>st</sup> century Vikings, we, of course, googled it on the spot.

The answer that came up first informed us that *syv* is more informal and used most commonly in speaking, while *sju* tends to be employed in written Norwegian. That answer led to another page, which suggested that *sju* is more common in Oslo and surrounding areas. The next explanation we found on our exploration of this internet rabbit hole suggested that the word choice is generation-dependent, with older Norwegians preferring *syv*, whereas the younger set leans toward *sju*. Wikipedia states authoritatively that although commonly used by Norwegian speakers, *syv* is a Danish word that was officially removed from the Norwegian lexicon in 1951. Despite that, it remained in widespread use and was once again accepted as standard Norwegian in 2005.

What's the real answer? Maybe all of these. Gather with us for the next Norwegian discussion group at 10:30 on June 7 (**note new date!**) at the Marshall District Library (124 W. Green Street in Marshall) and find out what linguistic rabbit hole we'll go down next. It is sure to be a fascinating journey!












# SONS of NORWAY

May  
2023

## Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

### MAI KALENDER

-  • mai 1 - Første Mai - Arbeidernes Dag - Labor Day in Norway
-  • mai 3 - Askeladden Lodge Board online meeting 7 p.m.
-  • mai 8 - Frigjøringsdagen, 1945 - V-E Day - Liberation Day
-  • mai 14 - Happy Mother's Day in USA and Canada
-  • mai 17 - Syttende Mai - Grunnlovsdag - Norwegian Constitution Day
-  • mai 21 - **Askeladden Syttende Mai Celebration in Kalamazoo 2 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church 504 S Westnedge Ave**
-  • mai 22 - Victoria Day - Canada
-  • mai 28 - Pinsedag (WhitSunday) - Pentecost
-  • mai 29 - Memorial Day
- juni 3 - last day to submit Askeladden News articles for June/July issue
- juni 7 - Norwegian Language Class, Marshall District Library or via Zoom (**note: changed from May 24!**)

#### Gratulerer med dagen!

*Fødselsdag Hilsener*

#### May Birthdays

Ruth Hettelvedt	Josephine Croce
Alice Kraatz	Curt Osborn
Harper Fugett	Kris Spence
Jeffrey Andert	Augie Erickson



#### 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.