



the ASKELADDEN news

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

August 2023

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

08-23

www.norwayinkalamazoo.com

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Meetings:

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

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

Trinity Lutheran Church

Officers:

President: Gail Thompson-Hadley

(269) 845-2265

glthadley@gmail.com

Vice-President/Editor/Acting

Membership Secretary:

Joan O'Bryan

507 Clinton Avenue

Kalamazoo, MI 49001

(269) 383-6802

joan.obryan@wmich.edu

Secretary: Karen Hare

(269) 568-9797

astutekaren@gmail.com

Newsletter Publisher: Judy

Hande-Skutnick

(269) 903-8386

jhandeskutnick@gmail.com

Treasurer: Curtis Cleveland

(269) 381-4531

cacleve82@att.net

Cultural Director:

Elizabeth Kraatz

(573) 999-1113

KraatzE@gmail.com

Affiliation:

Sons of Norway International

1455 West Lake St.

Minneapolis, MN 55408

Cheryl Wille - Schlessler, President,

Sons of Norway District 5

Bill Bultinck

Director, District 5 Zone 6

dist5zone6@gmail.com

Benefits Counselor:

Greg Ragan

(815) 623-8817

gragan51@gmail.com

www.raganfinancialgroup.com

Lodge contact info:

Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com

(269) 350-3330

Sunday, August 20

Ice Cream Social

2 - 5 p.m. with Vasa and Sonja Henie

144 Waupakisco Beach, Battle Creek 49015

We are so excited to announce that this year's Ice Cream Social will be hosted by Diane and Jeff Andert at their home in Battle Creek. They live at 144 Waupakisco Beach. Their home is on a peninsula on the Northwest side of Goguac Lake, two blocks south of the corner of Columbia Avenue and S. LaVista Boulevard.

Note that there is a great deal of construction going on in the Battle Creek area with numerous bridges not accessible. The simplest way to get to the Andert's is to

- Use Exit 98 off I-94 (Business I-94 and M66) North toward downtown Battle Creek.
- Take the first exit, Columbia Avenue, and turn left (West)
- At the third stop light, S. LaVista Boulevard, turn left (South)
- After two blocks you will see Waupakisco Beach on your left
- Andert's home is the third house on Waupakisco, which is a dead-end street

There is parking on the street and at their home. Call or text if you have questions. Call or text (269) 967-1311.

People can bring their favorite Norwegian sweet or ice cream base if they want, but it is not necessary as everything will be provided. We will have plenty of sweets, yard games, boat rides and fellowship. Come and have fun!

Midsommar at the Jensen's

photo by Rick Jensen



ASKELOADDEN NEWS

June recap: Midsommar with Vasa

Joan O'Bryan, Acting Membership Secretary

Every year on a Saturday in late June, the Vasa Satellite Lodge of Kalamazoo invites Askeladden to join them in an authentic Swedish Midsommar festival. In Norway, this day is known as Midsommer and has different traditions. Since Askeladden Lodge doesn't typically hold events in June, we count this special Vasa event as one of our events. This year we had a gorgeous day in a beautiful and inviting setting at the Jensen residence with a wonderful smorgasbord. Askeladden had a much better turnout than last year. There were also many Swedes there and we all had fun together adorning the huge midsommar pole that Rick Jensen constructed for us! Thank you, Rick!

Many thanks to Holly and Rick Jensen for their efforts in organizing this special event and for sharing their beautiful gardens with us for this fun and friendly gathering. Thanks also to Chuck Nelson from Vasa for gathering the greens and flowers we used to decorate the midsommar pole.

June 2023 event Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Karen Hare, Holly Jensen, Joan O'Bryan, Bob Swanson, Laurie Swanson, Gail Thompson-Hadley

Please contact Joan O'Bryan with any attendance corrections.



Midsommar at the Jensen's
photos courtesy of
Holly Jensen



Our hostess Holly Jensen
photo by Joan O'Bryan

En Ny Nettside (A New Website)

Karn Erlandson, Webmaster

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. -Dr. Seuss

If Dr. Seuss is correct, the process of creating a new website for our Lodge has made me an "around the world" traveler! Though I'm not the most tech-savvy, I do love to learn – that is one reason why I'm an Askeladden Lodge member. After ascending a steep learning curve, and with a lot of help from patient and more technically adept folks and many YouTube tutorials, we are ready to share the new Askeladden Lodge website!

Please bookmark the following: <https://www.norwayinkalamazoo.com>

If you encounter any links that are broken, or information that is confusing or incorrect, please let me know at karnerlandson@yahoo.com. Feedback is welcome!

Our new website was created using Google Sites, a free (!) suite of design and website hosting tools that enables less tech-adept folks (like me!) to easily make changes to the content as needed.

The goal for the new website is to capture and communicate the key information members and prospective members need in a "one-stop shop" format. The website has a homepage, plus several additional subpages: Events, Newsletters, Scholarships, Library Resources and Membership/Contacts. Lodge newsletters can be viewed and downloaded from the new website. Newsletters from 2019 to current are available, with plans to add pre-2019 newsletters. We will still use our monthly newsletters to communicate more detailed event information, recaps of past events, and other interesting articles; Facebook will still be used as well to share culture tidbits, photos and other Lodge highlights.

Many thanks go to Thad Shaffer, our Lodge's first webmaster! Thad established our website well over a decade ago, when building and maintaining a website required A LOT of programming know-how. We really appreciate Thad's technical and financial support and years of service. Special thanks also to Joan O'Bryan, who shepherded the process with historical context, people connections and clear ideas for information that the website should convey. Finally, tusen takk ("thousand thanks") to Joan's super tech-savvy colleague, Derek Diget, who lent his website/domain registrar expertise to make sure our longstanding "norwayinkalamazoo" domain name could be used with our new website!

Norwegians in Canada

Norwegians have a history of migration to Canada spanning more than a thousand years. The Norse were the first Europeans to land in North America via Iceland, establishing a settlement called Vinland at L'Anse aux Meadows on the coast of Newfoundland around 1000 A.D.

The largest wave of Norwegian immigrants to Canada occurred much later. Between 1850 and 1915, nearly 681,000 Norwegians landed in both the eastern and western coastal provinces. Their reasons for leaving home included a lack of employment, little available land and political inequality.

Settlements sprang up on the prairies and in Western Canada. Settlers established churches, newspapers and communities based on ethnicity, and Norwegians who migrated north from the U.S. brought Norwegian-American organizations with them, such as Sons of Norway.

Norwegians streamed into the country between 1900 and 1915 – over 18,000 from Norway and thousands of Norwegian-Americans. 21,500 Norwegians arrived between 1915 and 1929. [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#) reports that today over 463,000 Canadians claim Norwegian ancestry. Nearly one-third of Norwegian-Canadians live in British Columbia and they are one of the largest European ethnic groups in the country.

Famous Norwegian-Canadians include: singer/songwriter Joni Mitchell (née Anderson); cross-country skier Herman "Jackrabbit" Smith-Johannsen, who lived to be 111; Torill Kove, film director, animator and Academy Award winner for her animated short *The Danish Poet*; Fred Stenson, writer of historical non-fiction and fiction; and Martha Ostenso, novelist, screenwriter and poet.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Reflections on 2023 Accomplishments

As we look back on the past year so far with Askeladden Lodge, we have much to celebrate. Thanks to the initiative and dedicated work of many of our members, our lodge has made good progress on a number of important fronts. My heartfelt thanks to all those who agreed to serve on the board of directors, as officers, and as chairs and committee members.

When I recruited members last fall to serve our lodge in 2023, my focus was particularly on increasing publicity for lodge events, establishing a Norwegian language component for our meetings, again having a social director, and updating our website.

As publicity chairman, Kris Spence designed a flyer to promote our Norwegian language sessions at the Marshall Public Library. Kris and wife Karn Erlandson stepped up to help organize our Kalamazoo parade participation which gives us good publicity in the community.

Native Norwegian speaker, Astrid Willis, led about a dozen of us in learning the Norwegian language with materials she printed for us from the Sons of Norway website. We met monthly at the Marshall District Library on the Wednesday mornings following our monthly lodge meetings last spring and early summer and plan to resume those sessions in September. Cultural Director Elizabeth Kraatz helped guide our questions and Astrid's wonderful sense of humor made our sessions most enjoyable.

Jeff and Diane Andert, as social co-directors, have helped with meeting setup and secured the food for an awesome Syttende Mai feast. They volunteered to host our traditional ice cream social at their Battle Creek area home on August 20th as described on page one.

Karn Erlandson agreed to tackle updating our Askeladden website after several years of its inactivity. She taught herself the requisite skills for website development and we are delighted with the impressive results. You can view it yourself by following the link in her article in this newsletter. I especially like the descriptions Karn included of past programs as well as links to our prior newsletters and upcoming events. The website provides easy access for current and prospective Askeladden members to learn about our lodge.

The local Swedish Vasa Satellite lodge continues to invite us to many of their celebrations. Holly Jensen prepared dozens of blown-out dyed eggs and bountiful supplies for members of both Vasa and Askeladden to construct beautiful individual Easter egg trees. Holly also hosted both groups at her home for the traditional Midsommar celebration.

Another wonderful program was made possible by the contributions of all those members who brought Norwegian items for a "show and tell." We learned about special family heirlooms passed down from earlier generations as well as more recently collected treasures.

Our board of directors continues to do the behind-the-scenes work which makes the rest of the lodge programs possible. Vice President, Membership Chair, and Newsletter Editor, Joan O'Bryan dedicates countless hours every month for her numerous lodge responsibilities.

Treasurer Curtis Cleveland keeps our finances in order and keeps us duly informed about them. Secretary Karen Hare records detailed minutes for both lodge and board meetings. Cultural director Elizabeth Kraatz, with the other board members, has provided articles for the newsletter and plans for lodge programs and events. In addition, we appreciate the work Judy Hande-Skutnik does to get our monthly newsletter printed and mailed. Karn Erlandson has helped us immensely in navigating the church facilities now that there is no longer a church employee available for our gatherings.

I am doing a rural folk art tour of Norway in mid-August so won't be here to attend the August 20th ice cream social, but I encourage you to enjoy that social time with each other.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Bear Breakthrough

For 13 years, researchers in Scandinavia have been studying hibernating bears and have drawn some very important conclusions regarding blood clots. Since 2010, they have drawn blood, fat, muscle and urine samples from 70 bears in both the winter and summer. The difference they discovered between samples was changed platelets while the bears were hibernating. This is notable as bears can be still for several months without blood clots, while humans are at risk sitting still for too long. From their studies, they have determined that bears produce less of a protein called HSP47 in winter, which can cause blood to coagulate. These findings are remarkable in that scientists now know which protein to focus on when creating medicines for blood clots. The researchers believe there are more important discoveries to be made from this project and thus will continue to study these hibernating bears.

Sinéad O'Connor in Norway

News of self-described protest singer Sinéad O'Connor's untimely death recently swept the globe. O'Connor was 100% Irish and once released an entire album of traditional Irish folk songs – so what is her connection to Norway? Sinéad was invited to perform at two of the Nobel Peace Prize concerts in Oslo, including the very first concert held in 1994. Both times she performed, the event was held in the National Theatre in Oslo and broadcast on NRK. (In 1998, the concert moved to a bigger venue, the Oslo Spektrum, and since 2015, the concert has been held at the Telenor Arena.)



Pictured above: Sinéad at the inaugural 1994 Peace Prize Concert singing "Make me a channel of your peace - The Saint Francis of Assisi Prayer," which she sang a cappella as she frequently did with her own compositions. She followed that with her own song "Thank you for hearing me." Although there doesn't seem to be an official copy available of either concert as there are with more recent Nobel Peace Prize Concerts, Sinéad's 1994 performance can be seen here: youtu.be/xZ8BYNS1VYU and her 1997 performance, where she performed her original "This is a Rebel Song" followed by a traditional folk song, is can be viewed here: youtu.be/kOpmgQsthaC



SONS of NORWAY

August
2023


Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

AUGUST KALENDER

You are reminded: Under our Lodge's established Norway trip drawing rules, if you want to be considered for the October 2023 drawing, you must submit your request in writing (e-mail is fine) to the Membership Secretary by the September meeting. Acting Membership Secretary Joan O'Bryan's complete contact information is found on page 1.

If you would like more information about our annual Norway trip drawing, consider becoming a member of our lodge, or attend an event to find out more. Members can contact the Membership Secretary for the text of the current policy.

-  • august 19 - HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit birthday (1973)
- august 20 - Askeladden Lodge Event: Ice Cream Social 2 p.m.
Activities on land and lake at the home of Jeff and Diane Andert in Battle Creek
144 Waupakisco Beach
- august 31 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles.

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

August Birthdays

Joyce M. Allworth	Catherine Hande
Curtis A. Cleveland	Joyce M. Hare
David Code	Kate Phillips
Michelle Lynn Croce	Abigail Renoos
Jean Darling	Daniel Renoos
Janet Hampson	Svein Thoen

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.