



# the ASKELADDEN news

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

September 2023

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

09-23

[www.norwayinkalamazoo.com](http://www.norwayinkalamazoo.com)

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

#### Meetings:

Sept - April: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, 2 p.m.

May only: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 2 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

#### Officers:

**President:** Gail Thompson-Hadley

(269) 845-2265

[glthadley@gmail.com](mailto:glthadley@gmail.com)

#### VP/Editor/Acting Membership

##### Secretary:

Joan O'Bryan

507 Clinton Avenue

Kalamazoo, MI 49001

(269) 383-6802

[joan.obryan@wmich.edu](mailto:joan.obryan@wmich.edu)

##### Secretary: Karen Hare

(269) 568-9797

[astutekaren@gmail.com](mailto:astutekaren@gmail.com)

##### Newsletter Publisher: Judy

Hande-Skutnick

(269) 903-8386

[jhandeskutnick@gmail.com](mailto:jhandeskutnick@gmail.com)

##### Treasurer: Curtis Cleveland

(269) 381-4531

[cacleve82@att.net](mailto:cacleve82@att.net)

##### Cultural Director:

Elizabeth Kraatz

(573) 999-1113

[KraatzE@gmail.com](mailto:KraatzE@gmail.com)

##### Affiliation:

Sons of Norway International

1455 West Lake St.

Minneapolis, MN 55408

Cheryl Wille - Schlessner, President,

Sons of Norway District 5

Bill Bultinck

Director, District 5 Zone 6

[dist5zone6@gmail.com](mailto:dist5zone6@gmail.com)

##### Benefits Counselor:

Greg Ragan

(815) 623-8817

[gragan51@gmail.com](mailto:gragan51@gmail.com)

[www.raganfinancialgroup.com](http://www.raganfinancialgroup.com)

Lodge contact info:

[Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com](mailto:Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com)

(269) 350-3330

## Sunday, September 10

# 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## 2 - 5 p.m. with our friends from

# Sonja Henie, Sognefjord and Vasa

## 504 S Westnedge Ave - Trinity Lutheran Church

We are proud to celebrate 35 years of Askeladden Lodge of the Sons of Norway! Please plan to join us as we remember our past history and honor special lodge members.

We will begin with some important social time to reconnect with friends and to view Askeladden Lodge historical displays set up by our Lodge Historian, Curtis Cleveland.

Our celebration will then begin around 2:30 with a welcome from Lodge President Gail Thompson-Hadley. We will sing the anthems of the USA, Canada, Norway and Sweden, and then recite the Norwegian Table Prayer.

Our Anniversary meal is served with pulled pork, breads, drinks, kransekake & anniversary cake.

Please bring a dish to share: fish, cheese, salad, vegetables, or fruit. Norwegian dishes are especially appreciated. Table service is provided.

Our program begins at 3:30 with a remembrance of our dear lost members.

We will hear CD musical selections by acclaimed Norwegian Hardanger fiddler, Arne M. Sølvsberg.

We will toast our current and past presidents, Charter and Golden members. We will be taking photos, so if you have a bunad or Norwegian sweater, please consider wearing it, weather allowed. Charter member Dick Adams will speak on reflections on the early days of Askeladden. We will also hear some Vasa history.

The Askeladden Board of Directors will present a special recognition for outstanding and dedicated service to the lodge.

Askeladden members are asked to remain for 15 minutes following the celebration to ensure a quorum so we can conduct a brief Business meeting to select the nominating committee for our 2024 officers.

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Ice Cream Social at the Andert's

*Holly Jensen*

It was a perfect summer day in Battle Creek at the home of Diane and Jeff Andert. Their spacious patio was ideal for enjoying the ice cream and great company.

From her incredible outdoor kitchen, Diane served the ice cream and topping choices that topped any commercial ice cream parlor. Yum!

After our sweet treats, Jeff treated us to a leisurely pontoon boat tour of Goguac Lake. His lake knowledge and tales of former and current residents were fascinating.

It was truly a glorious day!

Takk så mye, Jeff and Diane.

*August 2023 event Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Holly Jensen, Kris Spence, Bob Swanson, Laurie Swanson  
Guests: Andrea Andert, Jason Andert, Adele Denison*

Please contact Joan O'Bryan with attendance corrections.



Ice Cream Social at the Andert's  
photos courtesy of Holly Jensen

### Trip Drawing Deadline Reminder:

You must notify the Membership Secretary in writing or email of your desire to participate in the October 2023 Norway Trip Drawing by **September 10**. The September event is your last chance to qualify.

## COME JOIN US



# Do You Want To Learn NORWEGIAN?

**Wed., Sept. 13**

**10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Marshall District Library**

Marshall, Michigan



**\*\* Free and Open to the Public \*\***



Sons of Norway • Askeladden Lodge 5-610  
• Kalamazoo, Michigan (269) 350-3330

### SAVE the DATE: Fish Boil OCT 1

Tentative schedule: Arrive at noon to view the fish and potatoes cooking. Eat at 2 p.m. Lodge meeting following the meal with trip drawing! Bring only coleslaw/salad or pie. Fish, potatoes and bread supplied.

## Gratulerer med dagen

### September Birthdays

Earnie Best	Elaine Erickson	Beverly Osborn
Astrid Code	Evelyn Iversen	Elizabeth Sherman
Mai Elise Code	Holly Jensen	Larry Skutnick
Lucie Darling	Gwen Meredith	Richard Wesenberg
Kerry DeWitt	Luke O'Bryan	Astrid Willis

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## *Fra Presidenten*

### **A Norwegian King, Stave Churches and So Much More!**

I've been most fortunate to connect to my Norwegian heritage during an incredible 12-day folk arts and fjord tour of Norway from August 10<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. The tour was led by Else Bigton and Phil Odden, Norwegian woodcarvers and furniture builders of rural western Wisconsin.

I believe one of my favorite experiences was on the next to the last day of the tour when we had most of the day on our own in Bergen. I noticed a cute little bright green and orange boat just docking in the harbor so I hurried down to check it out. It turns out it was a harbor taxi, so for a mere 35 kroner (about \$3.50) I had a boat ride across the harbor from our hotel and landed in view of King Håkon's Hall.

I recalled the story of brave Birkebeiner warriors who raced on skis to save the young Prince Håkon, and learned that same young child became King Håkon IV who ended the civil wars, uniting his people and eventually gaining influence over parts of Scotland, France, Iceland and Greenland during his 46 years of rule. He had the giant hall built as a royal residence and for feasting and celebrations.

The adjacent tower now houses a museum but I decided to sit quietly in the immense hall itself, built some 950 years earlier, and imagine mighty Viking warriors as they gathered to celebrate some recent victory.

Our rural folk art tour took us to those other ancient structures, the Norwegian stave church. We visited four of the existing 28 churches and learned about the features of two of

them from one of Else and Phil's carving and furniture building friends from their days in carving school at Dovre. Their friend, Edvin Espelund, also gave us a tour of his restoration business where we saw his work in progress to restore and preserve centuries-old log buildings.

We toured open-air folk museums with their birch bark and sod roofs, and several farms with their own collections of

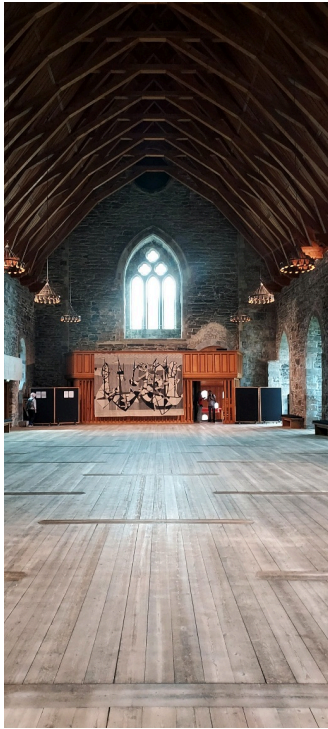
generations of family artifacts. We heard one of Norway's premier Hardanger fiddlers, Arne Sølvsberg, perform in a hall on his lamb and sheep farm after his cousin's family had served us a traditional Norwegian meal which included three kinds of lamb sausage and delicious rømmegrøt with fresh berries.

Besides all the photos I took, and the pictures I have in my head from my experiences in Norway, I lugged home a backpack full of books so I can learn more about such things as the Northern Lights, Vikings, stave churches, history of life on the fjords, and Valkyrie, women of the Viking world.

Please join us in celebration of

the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Askeladden Lodge on September 10<sup>th</sup>, and mark your calendars for our October meeting which will be on the first Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, as we join our local Vasa friends for their Fish Boil.

Gail Thompson-Hadley



Magnificent Lom Stave Church  
Inside Håkon's Hall



Nordfjord and sod roofs  
Massive waterfall in Flåm



Typical farm flower garden  
Håkon's Hall in Bergen



## Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

## SEPTEMBER 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 (or e-mail) to the Membership Secretary by the end of the September meeting. Amongst other membership requirements, you must have attended at least three regular Lodge meetings or other qualifying events in the previous year to be included in the drawing. 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.

- september 4 - Labor Day
- **september 10** - **Askeladden Monthly Meeting - 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (& deadline for trip notice)**  
2 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo
- september 11 - Patriot Day
- **september 13** - **Norwegian Language Class, Marshall District Library or via Zoom 10:30 a.m.**
- september 21 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles for October newsletter. This is a firm deadline.
- september 22 - HH Princess Märtha Louise, 1971 (no longer a flag day in Norway)
- **october 1** - **Askeladden Monthly Meeting - Fish Boil with Vasa on first Sunday**

### 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.