



the ASKELADDEN news

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

February 2024

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

02-24

www.norwayinkalamazoo.com

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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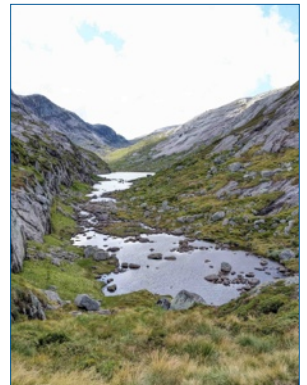
Sunday, February 11, 2 p.m.

Norway Travelogue

Terese and David Sherman

Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S Westnedge

Terese Røv Sherman and her husband David Sherman will share photos and stories from their summer 2023 trip to Norway. During their trip they visited family in Oslo, took a cross-country road trip over the mountains to Bergen, and toured the Stavanger countryside, including a trip up to the cliff Kjerag. They experienced beautiful nature and waterfalls while in Norway. You won't want to miss this travelogue and the breathtaking photos and memories shared by the Sherman family.



Please bring a dish to pass for our 2 p.m. meal. Coffee, water, and table service will be provided. 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 for Karen Hare if you haven't done so already.

Use the entrance at the back of the church and then take the elevator or the stairs to get down to the Fellowship Hall. Askeladden members are strongly encouraged to bring family and friends for both the meal and program. Travelogues are a popular way to introduce potential new members to our lodge.

Note: Following the travelogue, Askeladden Lodge will conduct a business meeting primarily to elect District 5 Conference delegates and collect service hour data to meet the D5 deadlines for both important and necessary items.

Michigan Nordic Fire Festival - February 23 - 25

Did you know? Askeladden Lodge is one of the sponsors of the annual Michigan Nordic Fire Festival at the Eaton County Fairgrounds 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 many bands, vendors, a Viking feast, and many other events geared toward kids and/or adults. Visit the website to get event information, ticket information and to sign up for volunteer opportunities.

www.michigannordicfirefestival.com

ASKELADDEN NEWS

January recap: Exploring Norwegian roots

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Acting Membership Secretary

Over 35 members and guests from Askeladden, Sognefjord, and Sonja Henie lodges attended the much-anticipated Zoom program on "Exploring your Norwegian roots" presented by Dana Kelly, the Executive Director of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library. Our expert guest speaker presented a wealth of information specific to Norwegian genealogy and answered our questions. She covered topics such as farm names, official church records, census records, immigration and court records, as well as free search engines based in both the US and Norway. Dana also discussed NAGC resources and services available.

If you missed this special event, or want to review any of the information, you can view a recording on our Askeladden YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/6CsJCTcd2hY>.

Our Lodge business meeting, attended by 18 Askeladden members, followed the Zoom program.

January 2024 Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Jan Hampson, Joyce Hare, Karen Hare, Barb Heffner, Holly Jensen, Elizabeth Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Curt Osborn, Sandra Santas, Kris Spence, Laurie Swanson, Robert Swanson, Gail Thompson-Hadley, Chris Walvoord, Astrid Willis.

Guests: Dana Kelly, the Erlandsons, and 15 Sons of Norway members from other lodges.

Contact Joan O'Bryan with any corrections to the attendance.

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!

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. These hours must be reported by March 15 to National.

Community Support: If you served on an Askeladden committee or helped with an Askeladden project that served the local community, please report number of these events and the hours - this includes travel time. Examples include parades, food drives, Scholarship and Audit Committees, and attendance at our Lodge sponsored Hockey Games or Kalamazoo Skating Association competitions.

Fraternal Support: If you helped to plan a program for the personal development of members (such as a language class), promote member fellowship via an event for the Lodge members, or if you provided other services to the lodge such as preparing reports, website generation, publicity, contributing to the newsletter, contacting members, or other services, please list the number of those activities and hours.

These vital 2023 details are collected by Karen Hare, Lodge Secretary. Please send her an email with your information via astutekaren@gmail.com or call / text her at (269) 568-9797. Many thanks!

A visit to the Viking

Kaaren & Kerry DeWitt

We traveled to Good Templar Park in Geneva, Illinois, to visit the Viking ship in October. This is the ship that was built in Norway in 1892-1893 as a copy of the Gokstad ship that was excavated in Norway in 1880. The ship sailed from Norway to Chicago for the 1893 World's Fair Columbian Exposition, proving to the world that the Vikings could have crossed the Atlantic centuries earlier than Christopher Columbus. The Viking ship now resides at Good Templar Park and is on display to the public just a few times a year.

Many of you will recall when Dave Nordin, Vice President of Friends of the Viking Ship, visited our lodge in November 2019. Mr. Nordin presented an informative history of the Viking and spoke of his organization's efforts to restore the ship to its original glory. I brought to the joint Askeladden/Vasa event an original "Viking" brochure from the 1893 World's Fair Exhibit. Mr. Nordin was so surprised, as the Friends of the Viking organization had only seen a copy of this brochure but not an original. After the meeting, I decided that this artifact was better suited to be with the exhibit than in my closet!



Kaaren with Dave Nordin holding the framed antique poster

I encourage everyone to make the trip to Geneva and visit the Viking. Seeing the amazing vessel in person and experiencing the guided tour is phenomenal! It was an afternoon well spent!

Geneva, Illinois, is a very quaint town. Its downtown has a Scandinavian shop as well as a Swedish restaurant. The Geneva Historical Museum in the downtown district holds on exhibit the restored carved bow and stern of the Viking. These pieces will be attached to the ship when it is moved to its final home in Geneva.

[Friends of the Viking Ship website](#) lists the 2024 tour dates for the ship. It also has information to become a member or just make a donation to help with the restoration of this great ship.

The Good Templar Park in Geneva where the ship now temporarily resides was established in 1925 by Swedish immigrants from the Chicago neighborhood of Andersonville. They established the "Good Templar Society" and purchased forty-five acres of land as a country retreat. It was about a 2-hour train ride from their homes. On this property some members camped and others built cottages called *stugas* (Swedish for "little house"). This part of the park is private and referred to as "the cottages in the park." There are approximately 35 *stugas* nestled around an outdoor common area and bathhouse. This property is still owned and maintained by their descendants who have become members of the Society. This area of the park is only open to the public certain days of the year. The other areas of the park host ballfields, picnic areas and playgrounds for the public. The day we visited the park, the Cottages were hosting a fall craft fair. Several cottages were open with artisans selling their wares such as rosemaling and stained glass, pottery and bake goods. There were fairy gardens throughout the cottage area and gnomes lingering about.



Kaaren and Kerry DeWitt visit the Viking Ship

All in all a very enjoyable excursion!

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Winter Nordic events & volunteer requests

Last month I wrote about Norwegian-style New Years resolutions related to *friluftsliv*. I have been tracking my daily steps on my Fitbit and usually achieve the aimed for 10,000 per day. I have restarted my twice weekly yoga plus lap swims at the local YMCA. Before the latest snow disappeared, I did get out for a good trek on my snowshoes across the fields to our old apple orchard. Fresh air always invigorates me – good for the mind and spirit as well as the muscles. I hope many of you are finding ways to get your daily *friluftsliv*!

February brings us two very special Nordic events: the Nordic Fire Festival in Charlotte, Michigan, February 23-25, and the American Birkebeiner Ski races – celebrating its 50th anniversary! – February 21-25, from Cable to Hayward, Wisconsin.

Joan O’Bryan and I watched the traditional burning of the replica Viking ship at the Michigan Nordic Fire Festival last winter which Askeladden Lodge supports with an annual donation. We enjoyed the music and other festivities and explored dozens of booths of Nordic vendors with their impressive wares. [Michigan Nordic Fire Festival™ - Home](#)



I haven’t raced in the Birkie, North America’s largest cross country ski event with close to 15,000 participants, but I was fortunate two winters ago to watch the Barnebirkie children’s races and the Barkie Birkie skijor of dogs pulling their owners on skis.

Sons of Norway provides cookies and hot chocolate for the 800-some children after their races and Askeladden Lodge supports that effort. Many Sons of Norway members have raced in the Birkie including our own lodge members, Svein Thoen, who has competed 4 times and won some medals, and Daniel Renoos, who participated as a boy with his older brother.

[American Birkebeiner \(birkie.com\)](#)

Please join us on Sunday, February 11th. After our potluck meal and social time, we look forward to learning about the Norwegian adventures of David and Terese Sherman when they share photos from their lodge-supported trip to Norway last summer.

Askeladden members are requested to stay for a business meeting after the program. Volunteers are needed for various committees which are critical for the functioning of our lodge. We will also elect delegates to the District 5 Sons of Norway convention in Indianapolis, June 19-22, 2024. Non-delegates also may register for cultural classes at the convention. [Convention Schedule and Events | Sons of Norway District 5 \(sonsofnorway5.com\)](#) Askeladden needs your volunteer contributions!



Gail Thompson-Hadley

Norwegian language class

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

Are you interested in continuing your exploration of the Norwegian language? Or maybe you're interested in taking that first step into the language and a deeper understanding of your heritage? Join us at 10:30 on February 14 (Valentine’s Day!) at the District



Thirteen Lodge members gathered at the lovely home of new members Joanna & Peter Phelps on January 17, where we enjoyed fellowship and a delicious Norwegian meal in the Phelps' festively decorated home. We celebrated the progress all of us have made in learning the Norwegian language and said *skål!* (gave a toast) to our continued progress in 2024!

Library in Marshall (124 W. Green Street). We will enter into the spirit of the day by exploring the theme “Norwegian, the Language of LOVE!” We promise you will leave with a few sweet nothings to whisper into your *kjæreste’s* (sweetheart’s) ear.



We wished *Gratulerer med dagen* (happy birthday) to *Karn Erlandson!*

2024 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 2024 budget allows for up to three \$1,000 scholarships.

Applications and required documents for the 2024 Askeladden Myrtle Beinbauer Scholarships are due to Holly Jensen by March 15, 2024. 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 inquiries.

Join us for the St. Patrick’s Day parade!

Joan Renaas O’Bryan, Parade Coordinator

Vikings from the western fjords of Norway invaded Ireland in the late 8th century. In the 9th century, from 841 AD onwards, Vikings settled the town of Dublin, which the Vikings also named. Under the Viking reign, Dublin became the most important town in Ireland. Many modern-day Irish surnames, such as Doyle and McLaughlin, are of Viking origin. Waterford, the oldest city in Ireland, was established by Vikings from Norway. Its name comes from the Old Norse word for windy fjord.

On March 16, Askeladden members and friends will join forces to invade downtown Kalamazoo by participating in the Irish American Club’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade. We will march as Vikings, wearing Viking Longboat costumes and other Viking gear. We will be led by our Lodge mascot, our treasured giant Troll.

Our staging area will be on W Exchange Place near the rear of the Comerica Building and accessible by foot from Rose Street. Everyone should be on site and in costume by 10:30 a.m. (Burdick Street at the Mall entrance on Michigan will be closed to traffic at 9 a.m.) Sign up to participate in the parade at our February meeting or contact Joan as soon as possible so we can prepare costumes. The parade is a qualifying event for the Norway Trip drawing.



Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

FEBRUAR KALENDER



- Februar 6 - *Samenes Nasjonaldag* - Sámi National Day
- Februar 11 - *Fastelavn* - Norwegian Mardi Gras
- Februar 11 - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting** 2 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church
- Februar 11 - *Morsdag* - Mother's Day in Norway
- Februar 12 - HH Princess Astrid, 1932
- Februar 14 - Norwegian Language Class 10:30 a.m. & Valentine's Day ♥



- Februar 15 - National Flag Day of Canada



- Februar 19 - President's Day, United States



- Februar 21 - H.M. King Harald V 1937
- Februar 22 - **Barnebirkie & Barkie Birkie**, Hayward, WI
- Februar 23-25 - **Michigan Nordic Fire Festival** - Charlotte, MI
- Februar 24 - American Birkebeiner, Hayward, WI www.birkie.com
- Mars 1 - 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

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.