



the ASKELADDEN news

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

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

March 2024

03-24

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, March 10, 2 p.m. Norway: Folk-Art, Fjords and Rural Life Gail Thompson-Hadley Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S Westnedge

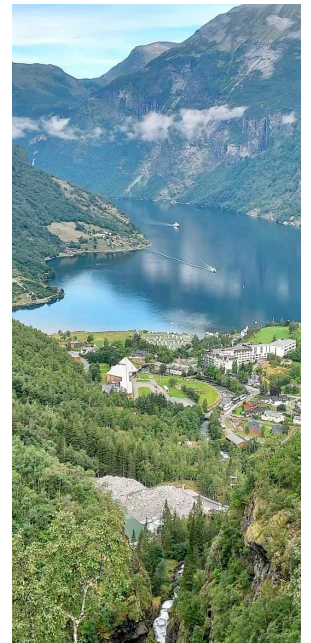
Join us Sunday when Gail Thompson-Hadley will share photos and adventures from her August 2023 12-day trip to Norway with Norwegian-American wood carvers, Else Bigton and Phillip Odden, on their folk-art, fjords, and rural life tour. Gail will show us the breath-taking scenery from winding mountain roads with views of the fjords, interiors of ancient stave churches, as well as renown Norwegian wood-worker craftsmen in their workshops, traditional meals served on family farms, and videos of roaring waterfalls, a Hardanger fiddler, and awesome Norwegian Fjord horses performing at the national training center.

Gail shared some of her Norwegian explorations of the replica Myklebust Viking ship in the September 2023 Askeladden newsletter and she told us about the Lom Stave Church, spectacular waterfalls, and the King's Hall in Bergen built 950 years ago in our October 2023 newsletter. You might want to look back in your email for those "Fra Presidenten" articles or you can easily find Askeladden newsletters on our wonderful new website (web address above in the masthead.)

Please bring a dish to pass for our 2 p.m. meal. Coffee, water and table service will be provided. You still have an opportunity to sign up to march with us in the March 16th St. Patrick's Day parade.

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.

The Sons of Norway District 5 **Viking Chest** of Norwegian artifacts will be available to view during our afternoon at the church. Askeladden members are requested to stay after the travelogue for a very brief business meeting required by Sons of Norway.



ASKELADDEN NEWS

February recap: Norway Travelogue

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Acting Membership Secretary

Our lodge thoroughly enjoyed the Norway travelogue presented by members Terese Røv Sherman and David Sherman and their three children, Elizabeth, Christina and Andrew. They shared photos and stories from their August 2023 trip to Oslo, Bergen and Stavanger. The photos of their hike up to Kjerag and the ones from atop Kjeragbolten were absolutely amazing - and maybe a bit frightening for some of us.

The business meeting that followed was attended by 14 Askeladden members. The meeting ran longer than expected and as a result, the Board is making changes to reduce the amount of time our Lodge members have to spend in Lodge business meetings going forward. March's meeting will be brief.

February 2024 Askeladden Member attendance: Curtis Cleveland, Kaaren DeWitt, Kerry DeWitt, Karn Erlandson, Karen Hare, Holly Jensen, Elizabeth Kraatz, James Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Beverly Osborn, Curt Osborn, Andrew Sherman, Christina Sherman, David Sherman, Elizabeth Sherman, Terese Sherman, Kris Spence, Laurie Swanson, Robert Swanson, Gail Thompson-Hadley

Guests: Brian and Rita Benzenberg

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

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/SonsofNorway

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.

GKSA Synchronized Skating

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

Congratulations to our Kalamazoo Kinetic Open Juvenile team! They took 4th place and a podium finish at the Midwestern



Synchronized Skating Sectional in Wichita! Askeladden Lodge is a financial supporter of the Greater Kalamazoo Synchronized Skating Association (GKSA). Nationals is next!

2024 Askeladden and other scholarships

Holly Jensen, Scholarship Chairperson

This is your final reminder: Holly must **receive** applications and all required documents at her home address by the March 15 deadline for the student to be considered in the scholarship selection process. Documents can be submitted through email this year for the first time, if desired, addressed to the special email account listed in the scholarship application.

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 2024 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**.

Norwegian language class on March 13

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 March 13 at the District Library in Marshall (124 W. Green Street). We will send the Zoom link to all lodge members and friends of the lodge who have requested the link the evening before the class. Friends of the lodge receiving this newsletter can request to be added to the Zoom email list by replying to the Lodge email address that sent you this newsletter. The language class at the District Library is open to the public and no registration is necessary.

Hooley for Healing 2024

Joan O'Bryan, St. Pat's Parade Coordinator

The Hooley for Healing happens March 16, at [Rugger's Up & Under](#) after the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The local cancer benefit began in 2012, by Erin Quinn, owner of [Quinn School of Irish Dance](#), and Eileen Chlebana, then owner of [Celtic Seasons](#). Both have lost family members to cancer and they founded the event to help other families coping with the disease while celebrating St. Patrick's Day with an authentic Irish party, known as a "hooley."

Donations will be accepted at the door, and numerous items will be available as part of this year's auction. Curt Tramel and Simone Keenan Irish, who many likely know from Fonn Mór, will perform. The Quinn School of Irish Dance will also be performing, and there will be fun games and contests throughout the afternoon.

Over \$54,000 has been raised and distributed since 2012 to families that are coping with cancer. I attended last year's Hooley which raised over \$14,000 for two recipients. There are two new beneficiaries this year – Sara Dawson and Betsy Valentine.

The Silent Auction and food sales will be on one side of the building, with musical acts and Irish dancers on the other side. I urge you to come on down after the parade and be Irish for a day!

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Travel Journals and Viking Chest

Most of us are familiar with Rick Steves who has been guiding travel around the world for fifty years. He also happens to be descended from Norwegian immigrants. I just learned that his advised travel souvenir is not an item you can buy at a local shop but rather he suggests we create a journal of our travel thoughts and reactions. [One Thing Rick Steves Recommends All Travelers Do \(That Doubles As A Free Souvenir\) \(explore.com\)](#)

As I spend the time before our March 10th meeting preparing a slide show of my photos from my August 2023 Norway trip for our Askeladden program, I am fortunate to have written a daily travel journal myself. Every night after a dozen days packed with adventures exploring rural Norway and learning about her arts and culture, I spent an hour selecting the best of my photos for the day and then sharing them with my family via my cell phone text messages. For each group of photos, I wrote a description of the wondrous waterfalls, mountain views, astounding wood-carving craftsmen, awesome ancient stave churches, music, Fjord horses, tasty food, and so much more.



We've been blessed this year by learning about the Norwegian trips shared by lodge members, Kris Spence and Karn Erlandson, last November and by David and Terese Sherman and family in February. I did not have Norwegian relatives to visit during my trip like they did, but I look forward to sharing some of the outstanding art, culture, and rural life I learned about from wood carvers and furniture craftsmen, Phil and Else, who led our tour.

Else, a native-born Norwegian, met Phil from rural western Wisconsin when they were studying wood-carving at the school in Dovre, Norway back in the 1970's. After their marriage, they established wood-carving and furniture building workshops and a business in Wisconsin along with raising Norwegian Fjord horses. Else and Phil have gone back to Norway every year to continue to learn their crafts and study with Norwegian folk artists. For the past 14 years, they have led rural folk-art tours in Norway which include visits with and presentations by their long-time folk-artist friends. [Visit Norway, August 2025 – Norsk Wood Works, LTD](#)

Please join us on Sunday, March 10th, as we come together for a shared meal and social time at 2 p.m. with my Norway trip slide program to follow at 3 p.m.

Lodge members will enjoy the added bonus of the Sons of Norway District 5 Auxiliary Viking Chest for viewing Norwegian art and culture artifacts. Lodge members Kerry and Kaaren DeWitt, graciously volunteered to retrieve the chest from its most recent location in Indiana and bring it to our March 10th meeting.

Lodge members are requested to stay for a brief business meeting when we will hear a report from our Audit Committee. Our next Norwegian language class will be Wednesday, March 13th, from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Marshall District Library.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Member News

Velkommen new members!

Askeladden Lodge extends a warm welcome to our newest members Joanna Stelloh Phelps and Peter Phelps. Joanna is the daughter of long-time member Jean Willinger who we sadly lost a year ago. Joanna has been active in our lodge ever since her mom passed and even hosted the January Language class at her home and provided a luncheon for attendees.

Joanna is of Norwegian descent with two grandmothers and one grandfather being 100% Norwegian. Her great grandparents, a ship board connection when they immigrated to the United States in the 1850's, reconnected after they had settled in Chaseburg, WI.

Joanna's grandmother was a school teacher who taught English to the Norwegian students until she married a barber with his own shop in LaCrosse, WI. Her other grandmother was also raised on a farm outside of LaCrosse and when they immigrated, their name was changed from Christensen to Stave - and then Americanized to Staff at Ellis Island.

Through the years, Norwegian traditions continued on both sides of the family, including Norwegian foods and celebrations.

Born in Galesburg, IL, Joanna was raised in Battle Creek. Peter was raised in Richmond, IN, with his adult life in Battle Creek.

Joanna has an English degree from Western Michigan and has been a chef, culinary instructor, fund raiser for nonprofits, and holds estate sales for friends. Peter has a journalism degree from Franklin College and Ball State and has been in marketing for Kellogg's, Kellogg Community College, United Way, and is retired from Bronson Battle Creek. Joanna enjoys cooking, baking, and estate sales. Peter enjoys reading and watercolor and both enjoy having two booths in two antique malls.

Joanna is 3/4 Norwegian – and Peter is Norwegian by marriage! They are eager to celebrate their heritage with fellow Norwegians.

Bocuse d'Or Europe final in Trondheim

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

March 19 & 20 are the dates set for the 37th "Bocuse d'Or" European final. This world-wide culinary competition takes place in Trondheim this year. Trondheim is considered by many to be the culinary capital of Norway. Under the leadership of Chef Håvard Werkland, Team Norway will have 5 hours to produce 14 servings featuring products from Norway with the main ingredients being reindeer meat and aquavit. You can follow the results at <https://www.bocusedor.com/en/selection/europe>

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

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, St. Pat's Parade Coordinator

On March 16, Askeladden members and friends will once again 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.

As of now, our staging area will be on W Exchange Place near the rear of the Lennon Miller (former 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 March meeting or **contact Joan** as soon as possible if you and/or your children want to march with us. This parade is a qualifying event for the Norway Trip drawing.



SONS of NORWAY

March
2024

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

MARS KALENDER

- mars 8 - *Den Internasjonale Kvinnedagen* - International Women's Day
- mars 10 - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting 2 p.m. - Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo**
Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. - spring forward!
- mars 11 - Commonwealth Day (Canada)
- mars 13 - **Askeladden Norwegian Language session** - Marshall District Library or Zoom (link emailed the evening before)
- mars 15 - **Askeladden Lodge Scholarship applications DEADLINE**
- mars 15 - **District 5 Scholarship applications due:** Academic, Folk High School, and International Summer School; applications and instructions at <https://sonsofnorway5.com>
- mars 16 - St. Patrick's Day Parade followed by Hooley for Healing
- mars 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- mars 19 - *Vårjevndøgn* - Vernal Equinox, First day of Spring
- mars 24 - *Palmesøndag* - Palm Sunday
- mars 31 - *Påskedag* - Easter Sunday
- april 1 - Deadline to register and submit registration fee for Masse Moro. Visit <https://www.massemoro.org>
- april 4 - last day to submit articles for *Askeladden News*

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

March Birthdays

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



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.