



the ASKELADDEN news

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

May 2024

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

05-24

www.norwayinkalamazoo.com

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Meetings:

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

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

Trinity Lutheran Church

Officers:

President: Gail Thompson-Hadley

(269) 845-2265

glthadley@gmail.com

Membership Secretary/Editor:

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

Benefits Counselor:

Greg Ragan

(815) 623-8817

gragan51@gmail.com

www.raganfinancialgroup.com

Lodge contact info:

Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com

(269) 350-3330

May 19 (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, Sognefjord, and Vasa Satellite Lodges, to celebrate Norway's Constitution Day with us. HIPP, HIPP, HURRA!

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. The Askeladden Lodge will be celebrating 210 years of Norway's constitution with our annual 17 Mai event. Norwegians consume more than 13 million pølser (hot dogs) on this single day. That's about 2 1/2 hot dogs per person. In honor of that tradition, the lodge will provide lefse hot dogs with a variety of condiments. Please bring a side dish to round out the meal. Following another Norwegian tradition, ice cream will be served for dessert. Table service and drinks will be provided.

Scholarship Winners: Scholarship Committee member Jeffrey Andert will present the 2024 scholarship awards.

Syttende Mai in Norway: As a special treat, we will view videos of His Majesty's Royal Guard (the Norwegian marching band / drum & bugle corps company) which promise to provide glimpses of Karn Erlandson's cousins who played with the corps. Get in the spirit of the national celebration by wearing your bunad, festdrakt, or Norwegian-American T-shirt!

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

Use the entrance at the back of the church to get to our downstairs meeting area. There is an elevator if needed.



ASKELADDEN NEWS

April recap: *Alt for Norge*

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Membership Secretary

The 17 lodge members who participated in our April event were in for a treat. Elizabeth Kraatz presented a custom overview of the popular *Alt for Norge* series. We learned that back seasons are available to view on YouTube. Afterward, we broke into two teams for some competitive, but fun, rounds of Norwegian trivia. After the fun, we got down to business and made progress on the planning of our important Syttende Mai event. Kaaren DeWitt informed us how to add Heritage members to your membership for free.

March 2024 Askeladden Member attendance: Jeff Andert, Rita Benzenberg, Curtis Cleveland, Kaaren DeWitt, Kerry DeWitt, Karen Hare, Holly Jensen, Elizabeth Kraatz, James Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Abigail Renoos, Dan Renoos, David Sherman, Therese Sherman, Laurie Swanson, Robert Swanson, Gail Thompson-Hadley.

Contact Joan O'Bryan with any attendance corrections.

Food drive

Curtis A. Cleveland

At our annual Syttende Mai Celebration we conduct a food drive to support the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. If you are attending the May 19th event, please bring a bag of non-perishable food which will be given to the Kalamazoo Loaves & fishes. Local recently displaced tornado victims are among those who may benefit from our food donations.

In addition, we hold a Food Bank Campaign. At the May 19th event, we ask our members to give a monetary donation to one of three food banks that provide food to the low-income people and the homeless people in southwest Michigan.

Please write a check or place money in an envelope addressed for one of the following food banks:

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

Summer events planned

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

Askeladden Lodge has once again been invited to join the Swedish Vasa Satellite Lodge for their annual traditional midsommar celebration. Askeladden members truly enjoy joining the friendly Swedes in a beautiful and peaceful setting for good company and good food. Mark your calendars for June 15, which is a Saturday. More details will be forthcoming in the June/July issue of our newsletter next month.

Attendees really enjoyed the hospitality at the Ice Cream Social at the Anderts' Gogua Lake home last summer. They have offered to host us again this August. Date to be determined.

Norwegian language class on summer hiatus

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

Due to our Language Class instructor being out of the country, our next language class will take place in the fall, likely following our September Lodge meeting. Stay tuned for details.

Member News

Velkommen new members!

Our lodge would like to extend a very warm welcome to new members, the Ambrosen family of Jones: Kristy, John and Hunter. We hope to meet you soon so you can find out what our lodge is all about.

We also are happy to welcome four young folks that have recently joined Askeladden as Heritage members through the efforts of their grandparents: Liam James DeWitt, Elliott Lee DeWitt, Caleb Nathan DeWitt; and Lee Samuel. Caleb and Elliott both marched with us in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in March and we were happy they did! Memories made!

We are thrilled to now welcome all of you to our wonderful lodge!

Member input on 2025 Budget requested

Curtis A. Cleveland, Treasurer

Shortly, I will prepare the initial draft of the 2025 Budget, part of the Treasurer's job description.

At recent lodge meetings, I have talked about the need for reduced spending to improve the sustainability of our investment fund. As a member, I welcome any input from you on our spending and expenses. Please send me an email or written memorandum not later than June 30.

If you chair a committee, please send a request for funds. I have specifically requested the Scholarship Committee request the desired funds for 2025, no later than June 30.

Members requested to report service hours

Karen Hare, Lodge Secretary

A gentle reminder to please bring your Individual Tracking Sheet data with you to May's meeting. The Community and Fraternal hours and events tracking device is vital for the Lodge. You may also scan it and email it to Karen at astutekaren@gmail.com. Thank you!

Lodge acknowledges community needs

Curtis A. Cleveland, Treasurer

Askeladden Lodge continues its commitment to serving the low-income members in the community. In April, the lodge made \$100 donations to Ministry with Community and to Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. Both groups serve the low-income and homeless members of the community.

In a memorandum dated April 25, 2024, to our lodge, Executive Director Kelly Henderson wrote:

"We are so grateful for your generous gift of \$100.00 to Ministry with Community. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our members (those we serve).

"As we see the need for our services increasing and costs rising, it is comforting to know that we have the support of community members like you to make sure that we can provide our services 366 days a year."

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Celebrate Syttende Mai!

We are sad at the passing of our dear Askeladden friend, Jean Darling. We will miss her cheerful presence when we gather for Syttende Mai but we can celebrate the joy she brought to our lives. Please join Askeladden members and friends as we celebrate Norway's Constitution Day on May 19th.

A quick search online led me to *North Wild Kitchen's* 17 suggestions for celebrating Syttende Mai like they do in Norway which you might do at home yourselves on May 17th. Follow links below for video of the Oslo barnetog, a glorious multi-singer rendition of the national anthem, and more.

Excerpted from 17 Ways to Celebrate Norway's Constitution Day (17 May) at Home - North Wild Kitchen

1. **Wake up bright and early and get the celebrations going with a salute.** If you don't have a cannon, you can bang pots and pans!
2. **Fly your Norwegian flag(s) and decorate with red, white and blue.** Make food with strawberries, raspberries and blueberries.
3. **Dress your best.** Wear your bunad if you have one, even at home on the 17th.
4. **Pull out the linens and china.** Decorate your table with flags, ribbons and flowers.
5. **Prepare a full breakfast spread.** Your breakfast buffet might include scrambled eggs, smoked salmon, fresh bread, cheeses and cold cuts with bubbly for a toast.
6. **Have your own in-home parade and/or watch earlier ones.** Here's a 12+ minute video of [Oslo's parade](#) from 2019.
7. **Shout "Hipp Hipp Hurra!"** It's the official chant of the day.
8. **Listen to the drums.** Play your own drums if you have them.
9. **Congratulate your friends and family.** "*Gratulerer med dagen*" is the greeting of the day. Happy Birthday!
10. **Indulge in ice cream.** Lots of ice cream!
11. **Eat pølser "hot dogs".**
12. **Bake a cake or two or three...** May is the month for cakes!
13. **Fill your afternoon full of games.** Make it a fun day for kids.
14. **Sing along.** At 12:00 p.m. (GMT +2) on 17 May, 2021, all of Norway sang the [national anthem](#) (4 ½ minute video) and people were encouraged to open windows and sing along.
15. **Watch the *Hans Majestet Kongens 3. Gardekkompani (HMKG)* perform.** They are a renowned military band and drill unit of the Norwegian Armed Forces who participate in parades, ceremonies and international military tattoos. See them perform [here](#) in a 14 minute video.
16. **BBQ for dinner.**
17. **Kos deg.** After a long, fun-filled day, get cozy and relax with family and friends.

You might also enjoy watching a Norwegian NRK TV 90-minute video of Syttende Mai 2023 celebrations around the country from children's marches and sack races to views of the royal family and tables laden with red, white and blue fancy cakes and other tasty Norwegian treats.

[Gratulerer med dagen! - Gratulerer med dagen! - høydepunkter fra dagen - NRK TV](#)

We look forward to seeing you and your families on Sunday, May 19th, at Trinity Lutheran Church to celebrate Syttende Mai!

Gail Thompson-Hadley

New Krone Design Revealed

Norway's 20 krone coin has gotten a new look! To commemorate the 750 years since King Magnus VI proclaimed the third nationwide legal code in 1274, a call went out for design submissions.

The winner of that competition was Michael Guilfoyle, an already established coin designer who runs his own coin and metal trade business in Wales. The 60-year-old Welshman was tipped off by a Norwegian friend about the contest and made his submission despite some stiff competition from Norwegian competitors.

Guilfoyle's design for the krone ultimately won out because of the way it linked the Middle Ages to the present and symbolizes the "legislation's significance for the country." The coin features an image of King Magnus on horseback, carrying the scales of justice and a shield, to represent the Law of the Land, or landsloven.

The new coin was revealed at the museum of Cultural History in Oslo, with Michael and his wife in attendance. It went into circulation February 1 of this year.



Delayed Russ Partying Proposed

In Norway, high-school students have a unique tradition in the weeks leading up to graduation. The tradition is known as russefeiring and it is essentially a month-long party with costumes, cultural events, pranks, and music. Following the celebration, students sit for their exams. It is said to be rite of passage for Norwegian youth.

Typically, the celebration leads up to May 17 and ends with participation in the Syttende Mai parade. However, there have been recent talks by the Norwegian Board of Education in Oslo to move the russ celebration. City Councillor Julie Remen Midtgarden, would like the celebration to be moved after exams and also wants to ban russ party buses in some places.



Youth proponents of russ would rather see exams move earlier instead of moving russ, so as not to conflict with summer holidays and students getting ready for the next step of their education. No changes have been made yet; it will likely take a year or more. However, there are steps being taken to elect a russ government that can be a voice in the negotiations.











SONS of NORWAY

May
2024

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

MAI KALENDER

-  • mai 1 - Første Mai - Arbeidernes Dag - Labor Day in Norway
-  • mai 8 - Frigjøringsdagen, 1945 - V-E Day - Liberation Day
-  • mai 12 - Happy Mother's Day in USA and Canada
-  • mai 17 - Syttende Mai - Grunnlovsdag - Norwegian Constitution Day
-  • mai 19 - **Askeladden Syttende Mai Celebration in Kalamazoo
2 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church 504 S Westnedge Ave**
-  • mai 19 - Pinsedag (WhitSunday) - Pentecost
-  • mai 20 - Victoria Day - Canada
-  • mai 27 - Memorial Day
- juni 8 - deadline for Askeladden News articles for June/July issue

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

May Birthdays

Jeffrey Andert	Josephine Croce
Elliott Lee DeWitt	Liam DeWitt
Augie Erickson	Penelope Erickson
Harper Fugett	Alice Jane Kraatz
Curt Osborn	Kris Spence



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.