



the ASKELADDEN news

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

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

Aug 2024

08-24

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, August 11

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 once again 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 Goguc Lake, two blocks south of the corner of Columbia Avenue and S. LaVista Boulevard.

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!



Scenes from
our 2023 Ice
Cream Social
hosted by the
Andert's.
photos by
Holly Jensen.



ASKELOADDEN NEWS

June recap: Swedish Midsommar

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Membership Secretary

We joined Vasa at their invitation to celebrate an authentic Swedish Midsommar at the beautiful residence of Holly and Rick Jensen. With much help from the children, we decorated the pole and later danced around it. People made flower head wreaths and then we enjoyed a wonderful smorgasbord. We were having so much fun that some of us didn't want to leave! Plan to join in the fun next year. The event falls on a Saturday close to the actual midsummer.

June 2024 Askeladden Member attendance:

Curtis Cleveland, Karen Hare, Holly Jensen, Teri Koretsky, Joan O'Bryan, Abigail Renoos, Daniel Renoos, Laurie & Robert Swanson, Gail Thompson-Hadley. Guests: Eloise & Sawyer

Contact Joan O'Bryan with any attendance corrections.

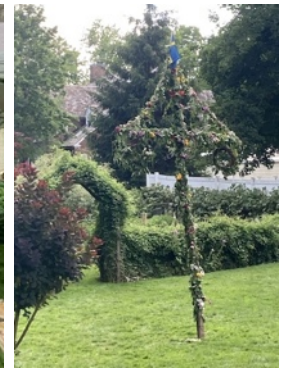


Linda delivers instructions for us on the authentic Swedish dancing.

Notice the head wreaths and the shadow of the Maipole.



Decorating the Maipole. It took some effort and several of the children helped, although they are not pictured here.



The beautiful Swedish maipole against the backdrop of the spectacular Jensen gardens.

Scandinavian Day Festival

Gail Thompson-Hadley, President

I read about the 44th annual Scandinavian Day Festival in the *Friendly Friday Fifth Newsletter (FFFN)* recently and decided it was worth investigating. The festival is a celebration of the culture, traditional food, music, dancing, and history of the five Nordic countries: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, and Finland. The day opens with a church service at 10:30 and includes children's activities, food and craft vendors, and scheduled music, dance and storytelling.

The 2024 Scandinavian Day Festival will be held on Sunday, September 8 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is located in the 25-acre Vasa Park along the Fox River in South Elgin, Illinois, with an entry cost of \$15 for adults, with children 12 and under free.

I plan to drive to South Elgin early Sunday morning and spend the day there this year. Perhaps in the future, we could organize a group expedition to the festival. We may have members of our lodge or the local Vasa group who have attended in past years. [Scandinavian Day - Home \(scandinaviandayil.com\)](http://scandinaviandayil.com)

Restoration Bicentennial

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

Although a small number of Norwegians settled in America during the colonial period (in Pennsylvania, New York, and New England), it was the emigration of 52 Norwegian Quakers aboard the sloop named the "Restoration" that sparked the "Amerikafeber" (America fever) that resulted in large waves of Norwegian immigrants.

Fittingly, the *Restoration* set sail on July 4, 1825 - American Independence Day.

In 1925, the United States Post Office commemorated the voyage's centennial by issuing a 2-cent stamp featuring an image of the *Restoration*.

We will be celebrating the bicentennial of the sloop's voyage in just one year. Get ready!



Member Spotlight

Gratulerer, Alice Kraatz!

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our own Alice Kraatz has been awarded a prestigious Sons of Norway scholarship for study in Norway. Alice was notified in May that she was awarded the 2024 Helen Tronvold Norwegian Folk High School Scholarship in the amount of \$3000. Alice will be attending the Svalbard Folkehøgskole, the world's northernmost folk university, located in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. The school is designed for students ages 18-25.

Of the various study lines at Svalbard, Alice opted for the arctic exploration track. Alice leaves for Oslo later this month, and from there she will fly on to Svalbard. We anxiously look forward to hearing from Alice as she embarks on this amazing, once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Askeladden Lodge congratulates Alice Kraatz on her incredible achievement! God tur, Alice!

Next Superman film shot on Svalbard

As the cinema award season wraps up, movie buffs can anticipate upcoming film releases. For those that love the superhero genre, the newest iteration of Superman is planning to come out in July 2025. The film, directed by James Gunn, will feature scenes that have been filmed in Svalbard, Norway. The location was chosen to feature the Fortress of Solitude, a base for Superman featured in other films. For this version of it, film crews chose Adventdalen (Advent Valley), on the island of Spitsbergen. The valley, which runs for a length of nearly 19 miles, was chosen for its natural Arctic beauty and varied landscape that set it apart from other scouted locations.

The director said that locals were curious about the filming that took place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. most days and was fine with having onlookers. Perhaps situations like this will become more commonplace as Norway continues to incentivize filming throughout the country. These incentives include up to 25% return on costs spent in Norway and are supported in cooperation with Arts & Culture Norway, Norwegian Film Institute, and Oslo Filmfond.



ASKELADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

The Restoration Norwegian Ship, 1825 to 2025

I recently discovered an old medal I'd tucked away in the corner of a little jewelry box, not realizing the significance of it at the time. It's a commemorative medallion of the *Restoration* Norwegian ship, the first one to bring Norwegian immigrants to the United States almost 200 years ago. The inscription reads "Norse American Centennial, 1825 Los Angeles 1925, Restaurationen." The following link provides a brief history of the *Restoration's* journey to the United States.

[2025 History - Crossings \(norwegianamerican.com\)](#)



Our paternal grandpa, Theodore Conrad Thompson, was born in Norway in 1870, emigrated to the Pacific NW, and then prospected for Yukon gold with his Norwegian cousins from 1897 to 1903. He later moved to Los Angeles where he met our Norwegian Grandma Josie Sophia Rognas. I have hand-written letters our grandpa wrote to Josie when he was courting her including a program from a 1913 Sons of Norway, Peer Gynt Lodge, dinner so I can imagine he celebrated the centennial of the *Restoration* in 1925 and the medal would have been his.

A replica of the *Restoration* was built in 2010 and will depart Stavanger on July 4th, 2025, exactly 200 years after the original ship sailed. It's scheduled to arrive in New York City 200 years after the original's arrival on October 9th, 2025. We will keep up to date on the celebrations planned for 2025. Here's a link I found to a *Restoration* Youtube channel! [Sloop Restoration- the first organized emigration from Norway to the US \(youtube.com\)](#)

Norwegian children have been learning about the *Restoration's* historic journey and the sailing of its replica planned from July to October, 2025. The following link is to an article in *The Norwegian American* of an interview with Norwegian school children about the 1825 *Restoration* and the 2025 journey. "Kjell-Sigve Lervik from the [Friends of the Restoration Association](#) put together a lesson filled with drama, connecting the lives of individuals to international events and major issues" which children experienced on board the replica *Restoration*. [Friends of the Restoration reach out to schools - The Norwegian American.](#)

Please note the following upcoming events:

Sunday, August 11: *Ice Cream Social* at the home of Jeff & Diane Andert, 2 p.m. See page 1 article.

Tues, Aug 27: *Askeladden Board Meeting* via Zoom, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Please contact me via email glthadley@gmail.com if you'd like the link to listen in on our discussion of the fall programs and preliminary 2025 budget.

Sunday, September 8: *Monthly Askeladden Lodge Meeting*, 2 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo.

Sunday, September 8: *Scandinavian Fest*, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., [Scandinavian Day - Home \(scandinaviandayil.com\)](#) South Elgin, Illinois.

Wednesday, September 11: *Monthly Norwegian Language Class*, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Marshall District Library.

Sunday, October 6 (first Sunday): *Fish Boil with Vasa and Monthly Askeladden Lodge Meeting*. Time TBA.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Report on the District 5 Convention

Curtis A. Cleveland

In June, along with Karen Hare, I had the privilege of representing Askeladden Lodge at the biennial District 5 Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Here are the highlights of the convention.

First, the new CEO of the International Sons of Norway, Mr. Daniel Seyfried, made an impressive appearance at the convention. He gave two speeches. In the first speech, he talked about his staff at the Minneapolis office. In the second speech, he talked about insurance matters. During the Q & A, he responded to my question about a possible merger due to the many years of unprofitable operations.

Second, I was a member of the Finance Committee at the convention. Our committee made two recommendations to the District 5 Board of Directors, including:

- 1) That the D5 BOD publish the annual financial statements (balance sheet and operating statement) in the FFFN; and
- 2) That the D5 BOD change its investment policy. Currently, the District 5 has around \$240,000 in the investment fund, earning around 2.2% in a bank-like saving account. We recommended that the investment fund, or a portion of it, be placed in an investment account with equities and mutual funds, thereby having the opportunity to earn a greater rate of return.

Third, the convention elected the board of directors for the next two years. This, I believe, is the most important action that we completed at the convention. The current president, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, who I think is excellent, will continue to lead the organization.

Fourth, I talked with the other Michigan delegates, especially Dennis Flessland of the Detroit lodge. Dennis expressed interest in a dinner to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the "Restoration."

There are six Sons of Norway lodges in Michigan. The lodges in Detroit, Muskegon, and Kalamazoo sent delegates to the convention. The other lodges in Lansing, Traverse City, and the UP, did not send delegates to the convention.

There were 78 delegates at this convention. By comparison, there were 100 delegates who attended the 2022 convention in Madison, WI; and there were 130 delegates who attended the 2014 convention in Delavan, WI, 10 years ago.

I want to thank the members of Askeladden lodge for selecting me to attend this convention.

Respectfully submitted,
Curtis A. Cleveland

Language classes resume in September

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

Our Norwegian Language sessions with native speaker Astrid Willis will resume in September, the Wednesday following our scheduled Lodge meeting. Sessions will be held at the Marshall District Library, as before. The class is free and open to the public.

If you need to brush up - or you haven't attended a session before - we suggest you check into the Sons of Norway basic language lessons: https://www.sofn.com/norwegian_culture/norwegian_language_lessons/



SONS of NORWAY

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 2024 drawing, you must submit your request in writing (e-mail is fine) to the Membership Secretary by the September meeting. 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 11 - Askeladden Lodge Event: Ice Cream Social 2 p.m.
Activities on land and lake at the home of
Jeff and Diane Andert:
144 Waupakisco Beach, Battle Creek

-  august 19 - HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit birthday (1973)
- august 30 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles.

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.

Gratulerer med dagen Fødselsdag Hilsener August Birthdays

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



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.