



the ASKELADDEN news

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

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

Oct 2024

10-24

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, October 6 (First Sunday) 2 p.m. Fall Fellowship, Food and Music 504 S Westnedge Ave - Trinity Lutheran Church

Please join us Sunday in the Fellowship Hall as we share our smorgasbord meal and good fellowship with each other. Please bring a dish to share. Coffee and table service will be provided.

Following the dinner, Askeladden members will move to the Lounge for a required business meeting, where the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for 2025. Foundation Director Curtis Cleveland will provide a brief presentation on the Sons of Norway Foundation (see page 3 article). We will hold our annual Norway Trip drawing. Members can sign up for the Holiday Parade (see below). We aim to conclude by 3:45 p.m.

At 4 p.m. we have an optional program. The Joy of a Rich Harvest: Baroque Chamber Music for Autumn. Early Music Michigan will present a concert in the church sanctuary as the start of their new chamber series of eighteenth-century music celebrating the fall season. Their music will include that of Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" played by musicians from around Michigan on historical instruments such as the harpsichord, recorder, and baroque oboe, flute, violin and cello.

Tickets: If you are interested in attending the music concert, you do need to purchase tickets in advance. You may choose what you would like to pay. Follow the link here to learn more and to purchase your tickets.

<https://earlymusicmichigan.org/events/>

Parking: Due to the concert at the church, you are strongly asked to park in the lot across from the church on Cedar Street.

Holiday Parade - we need you on November 23!

Kris Spence, Holiday Parade Coordinator

The Maple Hill Holiday Parade is a tradition that has been celebrated for 62 years in Kalamazoo. We are excited for this opportunity to showcase our Lodge's spirit. We welcome any and all volunteers that wish to march with us.

- The Holiday Parade is Saturday, November 23, with everyone gathered by 10 a.m.
- We need volunteers to walk in costume in a unified theme (we provide the costumes)
- The parade route is through downtown Kalamazoo.
- Sign up at the October lodge meeting, or reach out as soon as you can to Kris Spence at kspence7134@yahoo.com to commit to participating. We will follow up with more details.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

September recap: Live from Svalbard!

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Membership Secretary

Alice Kraatz joined us over Zoom for our cultural program on September 8. Alice was awarded the 2024 Helen Tronvold Norwegian Folk High School \$3000 Scholarship. For the next nine months, Alice is attending the Svalbard Folkehøgskole, the world's northernmost folk university, located in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. The school curriculum is designed for students ages 18-25.

Alice opted for the arctic exploration track at the school. Alice had been at Svalbard only one week when she joined us over Zoom to share her experiences. Our call began outside, where Alice showed us around for about five minutes before going to her dorm room where she described school life and answered all our questions. We learned that the first sunset of the season had occurred only a week before. We also learned that it is required to carry a gun if you venture out into the area with the polar bears. Alice was preparing for a camping trip to a glacier when she spoke with us.

Prior to the program, we shared a meal with Vasa members and held a memorial ceremony for fallen Lodge members Jean Darling and Clifford Davidson. Holly Jensen's display board for the recent District Convention was on display. If you missed the live program, you can still view a recording of it on our Lodge YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/8-1-ZTpZIs8>

September 8, 2024, Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Kaaren DeWitt, Kerry DeWitt, Karn Erlandson, Joyce Hare, Alice Kraatz (via Zoom), Elizabeth Kraatz, James Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Sandra Santas, Kris Spence, Laurie Swanson, Robert Swanson

Guests: Conrad and Marlys Bauman

Contact Joan O'Bryan with any attendance corrections.

Language class October 9

Our next Norwegian Language session will be held Wednesday, October 9, with native speaker Astrid Willis. The session will be held at the Marshall District Library from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. The class is **free** and **open to the public**.

https://www.sofn.com/norwegian_culture/norwegian_language_lessons/

Recent Library Acquisition

Curtis Cleveland, Librarian

Recently our library received a gift copy of the book *Muus vs. Muus: The Scandal that Shook Norwegian America* from the Norwegian-American Historical Association.

The book is about Bernt Muus and his wife Oline who migrates from Norway to America in 1859. He begins his Lutheran ministry in Southern Minnesota. The two have a dispute over the inheritance that the wife received from her father's estate. Court cases resolved the inheritance matter, followed by a divorce.

Historical Footnote: In 1874, 150 years ago, Pastor Bernt Muus founded St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. This year, 2024, is the sesquicentennial of St. Olaf College.

Challenge: I challenge a lodge member to read this book and give a book report to the lodge at a future meeting.

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/SonsofNorway

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.



Lunch Outing to Longship Brewing Co

Jeff and Diane Andert are friends of the owner of the Longship Brewing Company in Lawton. Jeff is organizing a lunch outing to the Brewery for Saturday, October 12. RSVP's are required. If you didn't already RSVP at the September meeting, you can reach Jeff at (269) 967-1311 or email him at jnandert@comcast.net



September in Svalbard with Alice Kraatz



Photos from Svalbard courtesy of Alice Kraatz - left to right clockwise:

- 1) Traversing a glacier requires serious klampons
- 2) Sunset with snow in the foreground
- 3) The school spent a week on a retired Hurtigruten ship traveling to Spitzbergen to collect trash that had been washed up on the shore due to ocean currents
- 4) The Folkhogskole participated in a costume race to raise funds to support children with cancer. The expedition line raced as a polar bear - Chinese dragon style - and came in at last place. (Alice is the polar bear's back legs)



ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Scandinavian Day Festival

I had read an article in our Sons of Norway District 5 FFFN / Friendly Fifth Friday Newsletter about the September 8th 44th Annual Scandinavian Day Festival so I decided to make the three-hour drive to South Elgin, Illinois, to experience it myself. I did miss our September Askeladden meeting but thought it might be good to check out the nearby festival in case we might want to schedule a lodge field trip to it in future years. Scandinavian Day - Home scandinaviandayil.com

The South Elgin Scandinavian Day is a celebration of the culture of five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The festival features the crafts, dance, education, food, music and merchandise of the Scandinavian countries. The festival is held in Vasa Park near South Elgin, Illinois, northwest of Chicago and a fairly direct drive around Chicago from SW Michigan barring any traffic congestion from accidents or road construction. Vasa Park is a lovely 25 acres along the Fox River with plenty of shade trees and a few permanent buildings and a covered stage.

The festival began with a church service and then an opening ceremony with greetings from representatives of the consuls of the five Nordic countries. The first performance was by the Nordic Folk Dancers of Chicago. I didn't hear any hardanger fiddle music but I did enjoy the dancing by the performers in their various Scandinavian bunad-style costumes.

I wandered among the "Vender Walkway" booths with bountiful Scandinavian articles for sale. There were also information booths of various organizations such as the Danish Sisterhood of Chicago, Icelandic Association of Chicago, Swedish American Children's Choir, Masse Moro, and Skjold #100 and Polar Star #472 Sons of Norway lodges. I found myself some delicious homemade lingonberry almond cookies for a tasty treat.

I enjoyed watching a second folk dance group, the Leikarringen Heimhug Dancers, founded in 1925 and the oldest Scandinavian dance group in the Chicago area. The entertainment included a fairly amazing performance by Steve Solkela, a one-man band who played the accordion, harmonica, trumpet and various other instruments including drums and horns with his feet and even a pair of symbols on his head! He also sang a wide variety of tunes in a bass operatic voice and several songs in Finnish.

I learned that to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Norwegian immigration in 2025, Sons of Norway Polar Star Lodge in Aurora, Illinois, is in the initial stages of planning a District 5 Cultural event for October 3-5, 2025. I believe they plan to hold the event at the Norsk Museum in Norway, Illinois. norskmuseum.org

I expect our lodge members might find it worthwhile to join in the October 2025 Norsk Museum celebrations.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Sons of Norway Foundation Month

Curtis Cleveland, Foundation Director

October is Sons of Norway Foundation Month.

The Foundation is the charitable arm of the International Sons of Norway. Founded in 1966, the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. The mission statement of the Foundation is as follows:

"To celebrate Nordic culture and heritage through scholarships and grants to our members and communities."

The Foundation distributed over \$241,000 in awards in 2023, including:

\$160,000 for scholarships, awarded to 33 individuals;

\$67,366 for grants, awarded to individuals, lodges, and communities; and

\$14,000 for camperships, awarded to young persons attending heritage camps like Masse Moro.

Alice Kraatz, a member of our lodge, was one of the scholarship



winners in 2024. She won a Helen Tronvold Folk High School Scholarship.

These scholarships and grants are made possible by the endowment fund of the Foundation and by contributions to the Foundation from current lodge members.

As of December 31, 2023, the Foundation had net cash assets of just under \$12 million.

At the October lodge meeting, we will take a collection of donations for the Foundation. Please write a check to the "Sons of Norway Foundation." Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

In addition to the collection of donations at the October meeting, as Foundation Director, I will give a brief talk on the Foundation, focusing on the scholarships.

Scandinavian Day at Vasa Park, South Elgin, Illinois.



SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

OKTOBER KALENDER

- oktober 6 - **Fall Fellowship & Music (First Sunday!) Askeladden Monthly Meeting.**
Meal at 2 p.m. Meeting at 3 p.m. Concert in Sanctuary at 4 p.m. (tickets required)
Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo
- oktober 9 - Leif Erikson Day
- oktober 9 - **Norwegian Language Class, Marshall District Library,**
124 W. Green Street. Also broadcast via Zoom 10:30 a.m.
- oktober 12 - Lunch outing to Longship Brewing Co in Lawton must R.S.V.P
- oktober 14 - Indigenous Peoples' Day/Canadian Thanksgiving Day
- oktober 24 - United Nations Day – *FN-dagen*
- oktober 31 - Halloween
- november 1 - Last day to submit articles for Askeladden News
- november 3 - Daylight Saving Time ends
- november 5 - Election Day in Kalamazoo and other localities

Gratulerer med dagen

Oktober Birthdays

Malin Andert

Duncan Bjerke

James Kraatz

James Moe

Joanna Stelloh Phelps

Haakon Selden



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.