



the ASKELADDEN news

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

December 2024

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

12-24

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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Joint event with Vasa

2 p.m. Saturday, December 14

Sankta Lucia Pageant

Trinity Lutheran Church

The Vasa Order of America Satellite Lodge 661 and the Kalamazoo Sons of Norway Askeladden Lodge invite you to attend and participate in our annual Sankta Lucia Pageant and Jul party Saturday, December 14 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo.

The program will begin at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary with the procession of Sankta Lucia, her attendants and Nisse/Tomte. Programming is anticipated to last about 40 minutes.

If you know of a youth who would like to participate in this pageant, please text Holly Jensen at (269) 598-5523, or Kim Tilma at (269) 491-0182 so that we can arrange for an appropriately sized costume.

Following the Sankta Lucia program, a Jul (Yule) party in the Fellowship Hall in the lower level will have refreshments and a visit by Father Christmas (who may have treats for good children).

Warm, 'soft' and 'hard' gløgg (designated drivers please) and coffee will be offered alongside a Christmas Kransekake, a mix of savory appetizers and Christmas Cookies!

Many people like to bring traditional Nordic cookies to this event (we must have seven). If you would like to contribute to the Cookie-palooza, we are asking that you bring your holiday cookies, home or store purchased, to the church kitchen before the program. Take-away boxes will be available.

May the light of good friendship, food and a God Jul brighten the darkening days of winter for you and yours.

The church's rear entrance has a convenient elevator.



Askeladden's giant holiday card display

Kris Spence, Publicity Director

Our 8-foot tall wooden holiday card, exclaiming GLEDELIG JUL! to the world, is once again on display in the Holiday Card Walk at the Celery Flats Historical Area Park of Portage. We invite you to check it out! Portage's tree lighting ceremony at Celery Flats takes place Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.

Celery Flats Historical Park
7328 Garden Lane, Portage, MI 49002

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Lutefisk Lunch on December 14

Curtis Cleveland

Dennis Flessland, the Norwegian Consul in Detroit, has issued an invitation to the gentlemen of Askeladden Lodge to attend the annual "Lutefisk Lunch," sponsored by the Detroit-based Nordic Fellows, an all-men's group.

The lunch, which costs \$40, will be held at 11:30 a.m. at The Swedish Club, 22398 Ruth Street, Farmington Hills, MI.

The menu includes Lutefisk, Potatoes, Peas & Carrots, Beets, Swedish Meatballs, Hardtack & Limpa, Coffee, and Aquavit.

Although women are not invited to this Nordic event, there is a Swedish institution located 10 miles south of where the Lutefisk Lunch will be held: Ikea in Canton.

If interested in the Lutefisk Lunch, please RSVP by December 10. Call Dennis Flessland at (248) 547-6379, or email dflessland@yahoo.com for more information.

Language class update: Book needed

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

The Norwegian Language Study group enjoyed a lovely fall meal and fellowship at Joanna Phelps house in November. It was decided that we feel ready for a more structured study approach. We will be using the *Sett i Gang* textbook which is readily available for purchase online, including Amazon. Follow the link below to the textbook site where you will find links to register for the web portal, download and print the free pdf files of Chapter 1 (and 16), and purchase the text via Amazon. [Sett i gang, 3rd Edition](#) Any one of the three editions would be acceptable. One of the benefits of this text is its companion web portal; unrestricted use of the portal resources is available for \$10 for 2 years. Copies of the book will be available at our next meeting if you'd like to examine it before purchasing. Come prepared to converse on the topics covered in Chapter 1 (Getting Acquainted) at our first meeting of 2025 on January 15 at 10:30 a.m. in the Marshall District Library (124 W Green Street, Marshall). Make learning Norwegian one of your New Year's Resolutions!

Lodge conducts successful Food Drive

Curtis Cleveland

At the November lodge meeting, members donated food and money for the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

Members donated 39 items (37 pounds), enough to fill 7 grocery bags, of nonperishable food which was given to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. In addition, members donated \$150 which was given to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

When I delivered the food and money to KL&F, I was given a tour of the facilities, located at 901 Portage Road, by the Financial Comptroller Nate Mattson. Nate suggested and invited other members of Sons of Norway to tour the facilities.

Our lodge conducts a food drive twice a year: in May, as part of the Syttende Mai Celebration and in November, as part of the holidays. Our next drive will be held in May 2025.

Many thanks to all the members who donated food and money for this drive.

November meeting recap: Lefse Party!

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Membership Secretary

Our Lefse Party was fun – rolling out and cooking the lefse dough that Elizabeth Kraatz generously volunteered to make for us. We then enjoyed a shared meal that included fresh lefse with assorted toppings. We concluded with a business meeting, including the annual Norway Trip drawing. Congratulations to Elizabeth Kraatz, our lucky winner!

November 2024 meeting Askeladden Member attendance: Curtis Cleveland, Kaaren DeWitt, Karn Erlandson, Joyce Hare, Karen Hare, Teri Koretsky, Elizabeth Kraatz, James Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Beverly and Curt Osborn, Sandra Santas, Kris Spence, Gail Thompson-Hadley
Guests: Felicity Osborn, Kim Swinehart

Contact Joan O'Bryan with attendance corrections.

Askeladden appears in Holiday Parade!

Kris Spence, Publicity Director

We were pleased to have 10 participants march under the Askeladden banner on November 23 through the streets of Kalamazoo. Dressed in Norwegian sweaters or wearing the costumes of cheerful nisser, along with our traditional Troll and a polar bear, our lodge's marchers were proud to support our local community in the annual Holiday Parade. *Editor's note: I noticed our Polar Bear is matching our Troll in popularity with the youngsters along the parade route. Both James (as the Troll) and Kris (as the Polar Bear) did a fantastic job of interacting with the crowds along the mile-long route. They both helped create an enjoyable and unforgettable experience for many young parade attendees!*



Parade participants (L-R): James and Elizabeth Kraatz, Kaaren DeWitt, Teri Koretsky, Kris Spence, Karn Erlandson, Sandra Santas, Curtis Cleveland, Joan O'Bryan. Below right: Kaaren and grandson Elliot with Kris, the polar bear.



ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

2024 Reflections & 2025 Aspirations

I just returned from 2 weeks visiting my Pennsylvania daughter and northern Michigan son and their families to return to the start of what looks like a promising SW Michigan winter of bountiful snow – for those of us who relish getting outdoors for our Norwegian friluftsliv outdoor adventures! My snowshoes and cross-country skis are ready and waiting for the enthusiasm I still have at 76 years of age.

I am sorrowful to see so many of our citizens suffering from the sad consequences of a sedentary lifestyle and excess sugar and calories in their unhealthy diets. I implore you, as Askeladden Sons of Norway members, to channel your healthy Norwegian heritage and vow to get outside more this winter fueled by a healthy diet rich in protein, fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain carbohydrates with minimal sugar and processed food.

I've regained pain-free mobility after complete knee replacement surgery 3 ½ years ago and in the subsequent two years, I lost 40 pounds of excess weight gained gradually over 40 years...one pound at a time. I have been active enough and eaten a little less food to keep it off so look forward to another two healthy and active decades with my Norwegian father as an inspiring model who made it to a week short of 95 years old with his brain function and his lifelong enthusiasm for an active outdoor life intact.

We have an exciting year ahead in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Norwegian immigration to the United States of America with the 1825 sailing of the ship Restauration. With those celebrations in mind, I decided this was a good year to subscribe to the oldest Norwegian-American newspaper, *The Norwegian American*. Sections include news, opinion, features, sports, business, research, travel, Norsk Sprak, Taste of Norway (culinary), Arts & Entertainment, and Norwegian Heritage for a full 28 pages of Norwegian information and heritage. I am thrilled with the first several copies I have read and enjoyed. An annual subscription of the print plus digital subscription is \$70.

[The Norwegian American - Connecting you to your heritage and building bridges to Norway today](#)

Please join us on Saturday, December 14, as we join with the local VASA Swedish lodge in our celebration of Sankta Lucia and Christmas.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

American Revolution Experience Exhibit

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

As we begin to contemplate the bicentennial of the first organized Norwegian immigration to America aboard the Restauration, it seems fitting to consider the nature of the nation to which they were emigrating. The Restauration set sail on July 4, 1825; just 49 years after - and still well within living memory - the colonists had declared independence from Britain.

The American Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibit invites visitors to consider the choice faced by members of the revolutionary generation as tensions mounted in the 1770s: Would these ordinary citizens risk their lives and livelihoods in pursuit of liberty? Or would they remain loyal subjects of the British crown, coming into conflict with neighbors and family? The exhibit surfaces diverse viewpoints and experiences, touching on the journeys — both literal and figurative — of Patriots and Loyalists, men and women, Black and Native populations and even international allies. Rather than focusing only on generals and famous statesmen, it introduces audiences to drummer boys, military mapmakers and other ordinary people who were impacted by global events.

The exhibit at the Ladies' Library Association runs from Monday December 2, 2024 through Tuesday December 31, 2024, except will be closed on December 9 and during Christmas break December 23 – 26, 2024. There is no admission fee. Free parking is available in the LLA lot on the corner of Park and Lovell Streets which is **across** Lovell Street from the Ladies Library building.

333 South Park Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Norwegian 2025 calendars pickup

For folks who signed up at our October or November events for either the Splendor of Norway or Viking Verse (Rosemaling) calendars: the calendars will be available to pick up at our December event as planned. If you cannot make the December program, contact Joan O'Bryan for local delivery after the event, but prior to Christmas. Prices for the Splendor and for the Viking Verse Rosemaling calendars are \$10.50 each, payable to Joan by exact cash or by check at our December Lucia event. Our January meeting is held by Zoom, so please try to make the December meeting if you are not local.

Photos courtesy of President Gail Thompson-Hadley,
Top to bottom:

- 1) Gail on snowshoes
- 2) Conrad Thompson, age 94. "It's not the age, it's the attitude."
- 3) Gail and daughter Christine skiing out back
- 4) Snow on the fields and apple orchard
- 5) Gail's snowshoes





SONS of NORWAY

December
2024

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

DESEMBER KALENDER

~ Our Christmas event will be celebrated on **SATURDAY, December 14** ~



- desember 6 - Finland's National Day - celebrating Finland's independence from the Russian Republic in 1917
- desember 10 - Nobel Peace Prize awarded in Oslo www.nobelprize.org
- desember 13 - Luciadagen - St. Lucia Day
- desember 14 - Nordic Fellows Lutefisk Lunch at the Swedish Club
- **desember 14** - **Askeladden Lodge & Vasa - St. Lucia Festival 2 p.m.**
Fellowship Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church
504 S. Westnedge
- desember 23 - Lille julaften - Little Christmas Eve
- desember 24 - Julaften - Christmas Eve
- desember 25 - Juledag - Christmas Day
- desember 31 - Nyttårsaften - New Year's Eve
- januar 3 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles



Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

December Birthdays

Hunter Ambrosen

Scott Bjerke

Daniel Hadley

Karen Hare

Harold Spencer Lilly

Tore Ramstad

Sandra Santas

God Jul!



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.