



# the Askeladden News



November

Sons of Norway • Askeladden Lodge 5-610 • Kalamazoo, Michigan  
*A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway*  
[facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge](https://facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge)

11-18

**Meetings:**

Sept - April: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, 2 p.m.  
May only: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 2 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
504 S. Westnedge Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI

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**Sunday, January 13  
2 p.m.**

## **Expedition America - A Modern Day Viking Adventure**

### **Trinity Lutheran Church**

In November we enjoyed Joyce Hare's travelogue "In the Wake of the Vikings." Joan O'Bryan is excited to invite you to join us Sunday for a showing of a new documentary about the Draken Harald Hårfagre - the world's largest Viking ship sailing in modern times - as it travels nearly the same path that Joyce did -- and the same path that Leif Eriksson sailed: from Norway to the Shetland Islands, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, and finally Newfoundland, Canada, where the only known Viking site in North America is situated (L'Anse aux Meadows).

Experience breathtaking views of the ship and witness multiple life-threatening dangers the 34-person crew encountered on this epic voyage crossing the North Atlantic in an open sailing boat. Personal interviews allow us to become acquainted with Swedish Captain Björn Ahlander and the crew from 13 different countries (including one young man from Michigan) and help us gain a sincere appreciation for these extremely brave modern day Vikings.

Our gathering begins at 2 p.m. with a shared meal. Please bring a dish to pass. Tableware and beverages are provided. The program starts at 3 p.m., followed by a short business session with the 2019 Officer installation ceremony.

All events will be in Fellowship Hall, in the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 South Westnedge Ave, downtown Kalamazoo. This event is open to the public. Please invite anyone who may have an interest.

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Norsk Museum opens new exhibits for 2019

Dear fellow members of District 5, Sons of Norway:

I represent the Norsk Museum in Norway, Illinois, the oldest permanent Norwegian settlement in America. We are excited about two projects which we are working on this winter. District 5 is rather large, so I don't expect all of you to be familiar with our museum.

April 2019 will be our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary incorporated as the Norwegian Center, Inc., originally created by members of Cleng Peerson Lodge and now equally supported by Polar Star Lodge. We are entirely volunteer-run, a 501c3 not-for-profit museum. I encourage you to view our website to learn more about us. We even offer a virtual tour of the museum, through our site.

Our mission statement is: "We are dedicated to supporting the Norsk Museum, the Norwegian culture and arts, to honor and preserve the memory of the Norwegian forefathers who broke the prairie land we enjoy today, and to educate the next generations about their heritage, the 1825 Sloopers, Cleng Peerson and the many Norwegian pioneers who followed."

Throughout the history of America, Norwegians and their descendants involved themselves in our military to help keep this country free and strong. Even the father of our country, George Washington, was of Norwegian descent.

We have started the development of a new military exhibit, to properly honor our Norwegian ancestors who served. We are looking for military artifacts from area lodge members to fill this exhibit. Norwegian military items could be from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam or present. Items which come with a story are, of course, better. There's no guarantee every item would be on display every year, as we are limited on space. It is also better to rotate inventory to make the tour experience fresh and new.

Our next project is building an authentic Norwegian stabbur. A stabbur was a storehouse from a farm in Norway. Trunks with clothing and valuables were stored on the upper floor. Food and commodities were stored on the ground floor. Water and rodents were the biggest enemies in a storehouse. Stilts raised the floor level, the wooden steps did not come into contact with the building to reduce the possibility of rodent infestation and meat/cheese was hung from the ceiling.

According to Norwegian folklore, each farmstead has a Christmas gnome living in their stabbur. The Christmas gnome brings gifts for well-behaved children. But, if the gnomes are not well-looked after, they can play tricks on people. Some people put out a bowl of rice porridge sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon to keep their barn gnome happy.

We are already receiving building material donations and hope to break ground next spring. We are looking for anyone in the membership with expertise in building a stabbur. Any advice and monetary donations would be appreciated.

On Saturday June 1, 2019, you are invited to opening day of the Norsk Museum. Enjoy a delicious home-cooked Norwegian breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Norway Community building in Norway, Illinois, just off Rt. 71 across from the Norway Store. The breakfast menu includes fried Kumla, Norwegian

waffles, scrambled eggs with chives, fruit, desserts and, of course, coffee! Advance adult tickets are \$8 or \$10 at the door. Children tickets are \$5 [advance] or \$7 at the door. A special appearance of the Chicago area Leikarringen Heimhug Norwegian Folk Dancers will honor us with a performance at 9:30.

After breakfast, everyone is invited over to see all the improvements at the Norsk Museum. The church plaster renovations are now complete, and many new exhibits are in place, including an 1890 horse carriage, recently shipped over from an ancestral farm in Norway, Europe, now on loan to our museum. The Skagerrak Viking Ship will be on display on the front lawn. Lynn Maxson, rosemalar of reknown, will be demonstrating the art of Norwegian painting. Enger's Norwegian Gifts, Hardanger embroidery, and the Sloopers of America will be on site.

Mange takk,

Dave Johnson, President

Norsk Museum Board

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Norwegian Center Inc.

EIN 36-2971559

## Farewell Letter

Dear Members of Askeladden Lodge:

At the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the duties of the Lodge president will transfer from me to Curt Osborn.

I want to thank you, the members of Askeladden Lodge, for the privilege of serving as Lodge president for the past five years. I have enjoyed the experience.

I wish Curt Osborn the very best as he assumes the duties of the Lodge president.

As we move forward, I want to leave with you two suggestions to consider.

First, I think we should consider closer relations with the Vasa Lodge, that is, we should consider the possibility of scheduling the majority of our meetings, if not all of our meetings, on the same meeting days of the Vasa Lodge.

Second, I suggest that we review our budget and expenses as it relates to the financial stability of the endowment fund. Since this is a sensitive area, not suitable for a newsletter article, I will give you the details in a separate memorandum.

Best wishes,

Curtis Cleveland, Lodge President

# ASKELADDEN NEWS

## Askeladden Lodge 2019 scholarships

If you have children or grandchildren starting college next year or continuing as an undergraduate student, they can be considered for a scholarship awarded by Askeladden Lodge. The 2019 budget allows for up to three \$1,000 scholarships.

Applications (and required documents such as letters of recommendation and official transcripts) for the 2019 Askeladden Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarships are due to Joyce Hare *by March 15, 2019*. The application form and guidelines are available online at

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jqcci7JMT8VeVzq0OAF\\_CryZt5IBhoAC/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jqcci7JMT8VeVzq0OAF_CryZt5IBhoAC/view?usp=sharing)

Please contact Joyce Hare at (269) 327-5824 with any inquiries.

Being awarded a Lodge scholarship one year neither precludes a student from winning or guarantees that student will win it in subsequent years.

The application process is not complicated, but it does require a little planning to gather the required information, so begin the process today, including to make sure your Sons of Norway dues are up to date.

## December Christmas Program

*Curtis Cleveland, Cultural Committee Chair*

Askeladden Lodge members and the Vasa Lodge members held a joint meeting on Saturday afternoon, December 15<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Lutheran Church for the St. Lucia Pageant. This event was open to the public. There were about 90 people who attended this event, including 17 members of Askeladden Lodge.

The 45-minute St. Lucia Pageant, which was organized by the Vasa Lodge, was held in the sanctuary of the church. Nina Holm, daughter of Henrik and Basobi Holm, donned in a white robe with red ribbon and wearing a crown of candles, led the procession as St. Lucia. She was followed by several attendants, including her sister Anniken, River Reich, Lucia Williams, Ophelia Prymula, Edith Wright, and Lodge members Alice and James Kraatz.

The local singing ensemble Kalamazoo Sound Builders sang three songs during the pageant.

After the program, the attendees enjoyed the Christmas Party in the church basement, where Father Christmas also made a visit. Both lodges helped with the refreshments and food for the party. Joyce Hare and Teri Koretsky set up the buffet table for the food and refreshments. Holly Jensen prepared a Glogg. During the party, Inger Thoen distributed the Norwegian Calendars.

There was no business session at this meeting. However, the Board of Directors met for one hour before the pageant.

## Fra Presidenten

During the recent Christmas holiday, I was in New York City enjoying the sights and sounds of the season.

There is no question that the Christmas sights of NYC, the Christmas trees and the Christmas decorations, are both numerous and beautiful. Many of the Christmas sights are the same from year to year.

As far as the sounds of the season, besides the obvious churches and concert halls, I especially enjoy the live Christmas music that you hear when you enter a subway train station. A variety of musicians play the music, much of it done extremely well.

During this trip, I visited the Norwegian Seamen's Church, located on West 52<sup>nd</sup> Street in Manhattan, on two occasions, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

On Christmas Eve, I attended the Christmas Eve party, from 8 to 10 p.m., which featured singing, eating, and fellowship. About 100 people attended this event. I had a nice conversation with a young musician who migrated from Norway to America trying to make it in the jazz world.

On Christmas Day, I stopped in for coffee after attending the services at a nearby church. On this visit, I talked with the minister and her husband. We talked about a number of topics, including the movie "The King's Choice." Both said it was a good movie. I told them that we were showing part of the movie at our Sons of Norway Lodge in Kalamazoo (April, 2019). They asked a number of questions about the Sons of Norway.

When you visit New York City and you want a touch of home or of Norway, visit the Norwegian Seamen's Church. Just a few minutes will warm you up.

Best wishes in 2019,

Curtis Cleveland  
Lodge President

## Askeladden Lodge Library

[www.librarything.com/catalog/SonsofNorway](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/SonsofNorway)

Contact Roger Drong with questions or to reserve resources.

Norwegian proverb:  
What Mother and Father don't teach,  
the world teaches.



# SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

5749 Stadium Drive # 245  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

## JANUAR 2019 KALENDER

-  • Januar 1 - Nyttårsdag - New Year's Day
- Januar 6 - Helligtrekongersdag - Epiphany
- **Januar 13** - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting**  
2 p.m. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI
- Januar 16 - Sønner av Norge - Sons of Norway founded, 1895
-  • Januar 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
-  • Januar 21 - H.R.H. Princess Ingrid Alexandra 2004
- Januar 31 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles.

### Gratulerer med dagen!

*Fødselsdag Hilsener*

### January Birthdays

Brett Jensen	Scott Erickson
James Bensen	Magnus Selden
Aric Nesbitt	



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.