



the ASKELADDEN news

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

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

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

March 2021

03-21

Meetings: *In-person cancelled until further notice due to the pandemic. Monthly meetings will be conducted virtually online.*

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

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

Officers:

President: Gail Thompson-Hadley
(269) 845-2265
ghadley@iusb.edu

**Secretary/Newsletter Publisher/
Acting Membership Secretary:**
Judy Hande-Skutnick
(269) 903-8386
jhandeskutnick@gmail.com

Vice-President/Editor:

Joan O'Bryan
507 Clinton Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 383-6802
joan.obryan@wmich.edu

Treasurer: Curtis Cleveland
(269) 381-4531
cacleve82@att.net

Cultural Director:

Astrid Willis
(510) 393-5512
abwrw@aol.com

Affiliation:

Sons of Norway International
1455 West Lake St.
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Andy Johnsen, President,
Sons of Norway District 5;
Director, District 5 Zone 6
aijohnsen@att.net

Benefits Counselor:

Greg Ragan
(815) 623-8817
gragan51@gmail.com
www.raganfinancialgroup.com

Lodge contact info:

Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com
(269) 350-3330

Joint Meeting: Sonja Henie, Askeladden, & Sognefjord Lodges

Sunday, March 14

2 p.m. (online)

The Nordic Pineapple

Kjersten Offenbecker, presenter

Kjersten Offenbecker is co-proprietor of **The Nordic Pineapple Bed & Breakfast** in St. Johns, Michigan.

Of Norwegian heritage, Kjersten, with her husband Greg (who is “Norwegian by marriage”), had a Norwegian as well as a U.S. flag displayed in front of the Bed and Breakfast. The Norwegian flag made the news last year. We will hear about Kjersten’s heritage and the B&B as well as the flag story. The meeting is hosted by Sonja Henie Lodge and is scheduled to run about one hour.



Meeting connection info:

Time: March 14, 2 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join on computers and other devices with audio/video capability:

This is where we normally include the meeting link. The link will be emailed to you the morning of the event no later than noon. Please come back then and check your email for the meeting link.

Meeting ID: **816 6304 2735**

Passcode: **031421200** (note that it is the date and time)

Or dial in by phone by your location:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

When prompted enter the Meeting ID: **816 6304 2735**

and Passcode: **021421200**

If you need a little practice session in advance, contact Judy Olson at elansolson@gmail.com at least a day in advance.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Askeladden remembers Sandra Shaffer with Masse Moro donation

Sandra Jean “Sandy” Shaffer came to our lodge with her son, Thad, when their lodge in South Haven closed.

Sandy was the matriarch of four generations in our lodge - all of whom have made significant, memorable, and even considerable financial contributions benefitting our lodge.

For many years, as Askeladden’s Lodge Secretary, Sandy traveled 45 minutes each way to attend our monthly business meetings as well as our Board meetings to faithfully take minutes. She was described by one Lodge member as a quiet presence in a maelstrom of lodge activity, a ‘peacemaker’, soft-spoken, cooperative, and a friend to all.



Sandy attended our wonderful 20th Anniversary Celebration with several members of her family.

Sandy fostered her family’s interest and connection to Norway and encouraged their participation in Norwegian summer heritage camps. When Sandy won the trip to Norway, she brought her granddaughter Ashli to Norway with her. Three of Sandy’s clan were able to attend Masse Moro at Beaver Creek Nature Reserve in Fall Creek, Wisconsin. Sandy’s granddaughter Ashli Niles was one of them. We sincerely hope that Ashli’s daughter Lyla - who at her young age has twice passed out Lucia buns to our lodge members while dressed as Lucia, and who along with Ashli and Thad has represented our lodge in St. Patrick’s Day Parades - has the opportunity to attend Masse Moro someday as well.

Sandy passed away in 2017 at the age of 74. We know this special woman is deeply missed by her family. We are forever grateful for the dedication to Sons of Norway that Sandy embodied. Her legacy to our lodge and to the Sons of Norway lives on in the many contributions of the generations of her family that followed in her footsteps. And for all of these reasons, Askeladden Lodge has made a donation of \$350 in memory of Golden Member Sandra Jean Shaffer to the Masse Moro Sons of Norway District 5 Norwegian Heritage Youth Camp.

Deadline nears for Askeladden’s Myrtle Beinhauer 2021 scholarships

Joyce Hare, Scholarship Chairperson

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 2021 budget allows for up to three \$1,000 scholarships.

Applications and required documents for the 2021 Askeladden Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarships are due to Joyce Hare by March 15, 2021. The online application form with guidelines can be downloaded in one editable document here: <http://bit.ly/3rAZ6uT>

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, such as letters of recommendation and transcripts, so begin the process today, including to make sure your Sons of Norway dues are up to date.

Recap of the February Lodge meeting

Joan Renaas O’Bryan, Vice President

Our February meeting proved to be our most popular virtual event yet, with 31 attending, including 17 members and 2 guests from Askeladden Lodge! We held a brief business meeting where officers were sworn in and Elizabeth Kraatz delivered updates on both GKSA and CAR. We then joined two other lodges to watch a stream of the Stoughton Norwegian Dancers in their program called “Norse Afternoon of Fun,” which turned out to be much more than just dancing. Ole and Lena humor, Hardanger Fiddle music, Procession of the King and Queen, as well as a virtual parade of students dressed in their beautiful bunads from over ten regions in Norway were some of the other activities included. Because of the pandemic, this was the first time the students had actually danced in their bunads - and it was the first time their parents were able to see them dance together. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Masse Moro Heritage Camp July 18-31: District 5 Matching Grants

Masse Moro is a Norwegian Heritage children’s camp run by Sons of Norway District 5 near Eau Claire, Wisconsin. In District 5, we are fortunate that both the lodges and the District provide a matching grant of \$150 to campers. Here is how it works: After completing the camper application forms, Askeladden members apply to the lodge for a Supporting Grant of \$150 for their children or grandchildren attending Masse Moro by filling out the top half of a simple one-page form. After approving the grant, the lodge completes the remaining fields on the form and sends it with the \$150 check from the lodge to District 5, where the grant is automatically matched for \$150 at the District level. Thus the first \$300 of the \$850 camp fee is covered, making the camp experience much more affordable for families.

Submit your completed matching grant application form directly to Lodge Treasurer Curtis Cleveland as soon as possible.

Other scholarships are also available for Masse Moro. Visit the District 5 web page for complete information on these scholarships as well as all application forms:

http://sonsofnorway5.com/programs/masse_moro_heritage_camp.php

If you have questions about the lodge’s automatic matching grant, feel free to contact Joan O’Bryan or Lodge Treasurer Curtis Cleveland. If you have questions about the Masse Moro Heritage Camp, visit their website or contact Joan O’Bryan.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Time to Dream of Travel Again?!

Askeladden Lodge hosts an annual drawing every October for funds to support a trip to Norway. The drawing is open to those who have been members for a minimum of 3 years and who have attended at least 3 programs during the prior 12 months. With the Covid-19 pandemic requiring the suspension of in-person meetings, our virtual meetings do count as an official lodge event. You do not need to be present at the October drawing to win.

I was fortunate to get my first dose of the Moderna vaccine 2 weeks ago at a local Rite-Aid and once I am 2 weeks past my 2nd injection, I have a strong urge to hop into my car and head out onto the open road – after a year of barely leaving my house. With the increasing availability of the vaccine, I am optimistic that all our lodge members will be able to be fully vaccinated in the coming months.

In addition to the Norway trip funds awarded once a year, we also have more limited funds available for Norwegian cultural travel to places like the recently renovated Vesterheim Museum and Folk Art School in Decorah, Iowa, once it is fully open again for visits and workshops.

According to its website, “Vesterheim is the National Norwegian-American Museum and Folk Art School, with over 33,000 artifacts, 12 historic buildings, and a library and archives. This treasure showcases the most extensive collection of Norwegian-American artifacts in the world.

Vesterheim’s exhibitions explore the diversity of American immigration through the lens of the Norwegian-American experience and highlight the best in historic and contemporary Norwegian folk and fine arts. USA

Today named Vesterheim one of “ten great places in the nation to admire American folk art.”

As we head into spring and get ourselves vaccinated, we can plan travel to connect with family and friends, and perhaps start dreaming of travel in the next year to explore our Norwegian culture.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/SonsofNorway

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.



Waffle Day is celebrated March 25 every year in Norway.

Photo of Scandinavian 5-of-heart waffles, butter, and sour cream (strawberry topping is out of the frame) at Eldbjørg and Jan's hytte in Holonda taken by Joan O'Bryan during Askeladden-sponsored trip to Norway in May, 2012. Eldbjørg is first cousin to Joan's 100% Norwegian father.

Looking Back

Curtis Cleveland, Lodge Historian

Thirty Years Ago: 1991

At the February 1991 lodge meeting, Scott Erickson presided at his first lodge meeting as the new lodge president, having succeeded Myrtle Beinhauer. The meeting was held at the Masonic Lodge building, at Parkview and 11th Street in Oshtemo.

At this meeting, Joyce Allworth presented the cultural program, talking about Rosemaling. During the business meeting, one item of discussion was the upcoming play *Nora* at the Carver Center in Kalamazoo, which the members were planning to attend as a group. Inger Thoen was in charge of procuring the tickets for the members attending the play. Members “enjoyed a dessert luncheon” for the meal.

Twenty Years Ago: 2001

At the February 2001 lodge meeting, Orlin Loen presided at his first lodge meeting as the new lodge president, having succeeded the co-presidency of Margery Selden and Joyce Hare. This meeting was held at the Prince Of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage. However, in 2001, the lodge meetings were usually held at the Portage Senior Center.

Svein Thoen presented the cultural program, talking about the Barnebirke in Norway and in Haywood, Wisconsin. By that time, Svein had attended the Wisconsin event four times. Members were encouraged to wear Norwegian sweaters at this meeting, as part of the Norwegian Sweater Month. In addition, members were encouraged to arrive 20 minutes early to participate in the group singing, led by Karen Kunze and Crystal Walvoord.

Ten Years Ago: 2011

At the February 2011 lodge meeting, Orlin Loen was again presiding at the lodge meeting, succeeding Dennis Darling, who was lodge president from January 2007 to January 2011. (Orlin was lodge president from January 2001 to January 2007; and from January to November 2011. In December 2011, he and his wife Helen moved to Arizona.) The meeting was held at the Portage Senior Center.

Members watched an excellent DVD on the Norwegian figure skater Sonja Henie. During an animated business meeting, members approved the updated “Policy on the Annual Drawing for the Cultural Trip to Norway” as submitted by the special committee. Svein Thoen was the chair of the special committee on the drawing for the Norway trip. Members enjoyed a potluck dinner after the business meeting and the cultural program.

Membership News

Gratulerer til Askeladden!

Congratulations and thanks are extended to all who shared their enthusiasm of Sons of Norway and recruited new members to our lodge last year! Because of your efforts, Askeladden met its ambitious 2020 new member goal set by the Sons of Norway. As a result, our lodge will receive the \$125 incentive from Sons of Norway! This is the third year in a row we have met or exceeded the new member goal set for our lodge. (If you have ideas about how to target the money, please let the Board of Directors know.)



SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

MARS KALENDER

- mars 8 - *Den Internasjonale Kvinnedagen* - International Women's Day
- mars 8 - Commonwealth Day (Canada)
- mars 14 - **Askeladden Lodge Joint Program 2 p.m. - virtual event**
Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. - spring forward!
- mars 15 - **Askeladden Lodge Scholarship applications due**
- mars 15 - **District 5 Scholarship applications due:** Academic Scholarship, Folk High School, and International Summer School, find applications and instructions at <http://sonsofnorway5.com>
- mars 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- mars 20 - *Vårjevndøgn* - Vernal Equinox, First day of Spring
- april 1 - Deadline to register and submit registration fee for Masse Moro. Visit <https://www.massemoro.org>
- mars 26 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles
- mars 28 - Palmesøndag - Palm Sunday

Note: The St. Patrick's Day Parade is cancelled again this year due to the Pandemic.

NOTICE: All Askeladden in-person events are cancelled until further notice.

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

March Birthdays

Betsy Fish	Andrew Sherman
Richard Adams	Christina Sherman
Druanna Darling	David Sherman
Margaret Schmieding	Joan O'Bryan
Esden.Stafne	Audrey Renoos
William Strong	Arden L. Hetletvedt
Esther Ann Brown	Diane Andert



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.