



May 2019

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

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

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

5-19

Meetings:

Sept - April: 2nd Sundays, 2 p.m.
May only: 3rd Sunday, 2 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
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Kalamazoo, MI

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Syttende Mai

Celebrate Norway's Constitution Day
and honor America's Memorial Day

2 p.m. Sunday, May 19
Trinity Lutheran Church

Please join us on May 19 (the 3rd Sunday) as we "Celebrate Norway's Constitution Day (Syttende Mai) and honor America's Memorial Day." This will be a joint meeting of the Sons of Norway and the Vasa Order.

At this meeting, we have a Food Drive to support the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes (KL&F). Please bring a grocery bag of nonperishable food which will be given to the KL&F. In addition, we will collect monetary donations to be given to the Food Banks that support Southwest Michigan. Please bring a check (or envelope with cash) made out to one of the following food banks: **Food Bank of South Central Michigan** (Battle Creek and surrounding areas) or **Feeding America: West Michigan** (Grand Rapids area). Checks may be made out to the **Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes** as well.

Our festivities begin with the meal at 2 p.m. Please bring a dish (hot or cold) to pass. After the meal, we will pay tribute to America's Memorial Day, singing patriotic songs and listening to the words of President Abraham Lincoln. Heritage Members Alice and James Kraatz will present the program.

The Syttende Mai events include the Children's Parade (Barnetog), a quiz, a toast to the King and Queen of Norway, and the singing of "God Save the King."

All events will be in the Fellowship Hall, in the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 South Westnedge Ave, downtown Kalamazoo. All events of this meeting are open to the public. No business meeting is scheduled.

Please join us, starting at 2 p.m., on this day of celebration and community service. Please bring a friend.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Recap of April Lodge Meeting

Curtis Cleveland, Cultural Director

At our April Lodge meeting, members relived events that occurred in Norway 79 years ago, almost to the date, as they watched excerpts from the movie, *The King's Choice*.

The movie, directed by Norwegian Erik Poppe, produced in 2016, is about the German invasion of Norway in April 1940 and Norwegian King Haakon's decision to resist the German Occupation of Norway.

When watching the movie, one cannot but admire the moral character of King Haakon VII, deserving all the praise he has received since that decision.

Before the movie, members enjoyed a meal featuring Swedish meatballs served with tyttebær (lingonberries), salad, strawberries, oranges, herring, cold cuts and cheese slices, exquisite pastries with smoked salmon, and smørbrød. Joyce Hare set up and decorated in a Spring Garden theme with beautiful tulips and gardening tools on floral table coverings.

During the business meeting, we discussed the desire to follow Anne Rapp's suggestion for a field trip to Luisa's Café & Harbert Swedish Bakery in July.

Joyce Hare, who recently attained Golden Membership status, was presented with a Golden Membership pin and certificate by Lodge President Curt Osborn.



Esther Ann Brown brought multiple trays of beautifully crafted and tasty Smørbrød!

Fra Presidenten

Lykkelig mai til alle! I enjoy May. Not only because May 17 is my birthday, But for several other reasons as well. The weather, mostly, begins to turn from spring to summer. Flowers become abundant. Lilacs fragrantly bloom. Bees begin their beneficial work. To me, May is the best month of the year.

We remembered the past at last month's meeting. The film, *Kongens nei (The King's Choice)* sparked my curiosity about the events in Norway at the end of WW II. I was curious to learn about syttende mai celebrations after the war's end. It seems May was an auspicious month. On May 8, the Nazi occupation of Norway ended and German troops surrendered unconditionally. Then on May 31 the Government returned from exile in London. After much suffering by the Norwegians, May

1945 must have been quite joyous in contrast.

A few years ago, Netflix released several Norwegian dramas. I believe they are still available for viewing. One that is appropriate to this discussion is the NRK series *Occupied*.

Occupied is set in the "near" future after Russia invades Norway for its oil reserves. It portrays

the political maneuvering of living under Russian occupation, the abandonment of NATO by the US, and the Norwegian resistance. I thought of this when I recently viewed a CBS *60 Minutes* segment on Norway's role in the defense of NATO. If you missed it, it is available for viewing on YouTube or the CBS Roku streaming app. The next day, Norway reported capturing a beluga whale outfitted with Russian spy gear being used to collect intel on Norwegian military and naval operations. This is a clear case of art imitating life, and reminds me of the Mark Twain adage: "History doesn't repeat itself but it often rhymes." And goes to show Norway's continued importance.

Curt Osborn

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Askeladden Lodge is proud to announce that Heritage Member Alice Kraatz was elected State President of the Michigan Society, Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.). Like Sons of Norway, C.A.R. is a lineage society. Alice can not only trace her ancestry to Norway, but also to a patriot who served in the American Revolution. Alice will be leading the youth of Michigan as they explore the theme she has set: "To Honor, To Remember." Her State project is to raise money to put Vietnam veterans on the Honor Flight, with the intent of filling the plane. More information is available at CARMichigan.org.



Joyce Hare is awarded Golden Membership by Curt Osborn!

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association

James Kraatz, Heritage Member

Thank you so much for Askeladden Lodge's support of the Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association (GKSA). We fielded five Synchronized Skating Teams this year. I moved up to be on the Beginner 3 team, which had a great season. We skated to "Who Could Ask for Anything More?" We kicked off the season with the aptly named "Kick-off Classic," where we achieved first place. It took a lot of hard work to get there, but that work really paid off. Around a month later, we got a pretty low score at the Tri-States Competition, coming in at only 4th place. However, at Mid-America, the final competition of the season, we got 1st place again!

On another note, I personally achieved many of my personal goals! In "Moves in the Field," I completed the preliminary level tests, moving three ranks up from where I started! I also successfully completed the same number of dance tests: Canasta Tango, Dutch Waltz, and Rhythm Blues. For my free skate program, I skated to "Kung Fu Fighting." I

didn't do as well as I would have liked to in the free skate competition, but I know I will do better in the coming year.



Photo credits: Elizabeth Kraatz

were skating right here in Kalamazoo! Thousands of people came to compete and to watch the competition, which means that thousands of people saw the **Sons of Norway** emblem indicating its status as one of GKSA's supporters.

I hope that you will continue to support GKSA next year, not only through donating financially, but also by encouraging members to donate their time. The Kick-Off Classic is the first Synchronized Skating Competition of the season, so it always draws teams from across the country who want to size up the competition early in the season. We always need volunteers to do things like watch the doors. You can bring a book to read while you watch the door, so it isn't hard work and you can get in to watch the competition for free if you are a volunteer! If you can, try to volunteer on a day that my team will be skating so you can watch us compete. The Kick-Off Classic is always in November, on the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Thank you very much for supporting GKSA this year, and I hope we can count on your support next year!



James Kraatz and team in a 1st place performance

I wasn't able to skate in the Holiday Ice Revue this year, because I had a Boy Scout Retreat that weekend. My sister, Alice Kraatz, skated in two numbers, though, and even did a duet. Maybe next year she'll do a solo on the ice for the audience. The Holiday Ice Revue show is always a great way to celebrate the holiday season.

This was a really high-visibility year for the GKSA, since we hosted the Midwest-Pacific Synchronized Skating Competition. Some of the best teams in the nation



Alice Kraatz performs in 2018 Holiday Ice Revue



SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

5749 Stadium Drive # 245
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

MAI KALENDER



- mai 1 - Første Mai - Arbeidernes Dag - Labor Day in Norway
- mai 8 - Frigjøringsdagen, 1945 - V-E Day - Liberation Day
- mai 9-12 - International Congress on Medieval Studies at WMU
- mai 12 - Mother's Day USA and Canada



- mai 17 - Syttende Mai - Grunnlovsdag - Norwegian Constitution Day
- mai 17 - Masse Moro - early registration deadline & grants deadline
- mai 19 - [Askeladden Syttende Mai Celebration & Barnetog](#)
2 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S Westnedge Ave



- mai 20 - Victoria Day - Canada



- mai 27 - Memorial Day
- mai 30 - Kristi Himmelfartsdag - Ascension Day
- juni 1 - last day to submit Askeladden News articles for June/July issue

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

May Birthdays

Jean Willinger	Linda Lou Piper
Alice Kraatz	Curt Osborn
Harper Fugett	Ruth Hetletvedt
Daniel Phillips	

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Roger Drong with questions or to reserve resources.



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.