



the ASKELADDEN news

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

October 2023

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

10-23

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 1 (First Sunday) 2 p.m.

Fish Boil with Vasa

504 S Westnedge Ave - Trinity Lutheran Church

Kalamazoo's Vasa Satellite Lodge has invited Askeladden members to join them for their traditional Fish Boil on Sunday, October 1, at 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge in Kalamazoo. Arrive as early as noon to sit around the fire and chat and watch the fish cook. The exciting pyrotechnic boil-over may happen as early as 2 p.m.

You are invited to bring your family and friends. Askeladden Lodge will cover the cost of the fish but please bring some variety of salad or pie to share. In addition to the fish and potatoes, a traditional Wisconsin fish boil typically features coleslaw and cherry pie.

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 2024. Foundation Director Curtis Cleveland will provide a brief presentation on the Sons of Norway Foundation (see article on page 2). And we will hold our annual Norway Trip drawing.

Holiday Parade - we need you!

Kris Spence, Holiday Parade Coordinator

The Maple Hill Holiday Parade is on November 18 this year. 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 18, with everyone gathered by 10 a.m.
- We need volunteers to walk in costume in a unified theme (we provide the costumes); especially could use some young children, age 7 and older.
- 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.



Charter Members in attendance at our 35th Anniversary Celebration in September:
Inger Thoen, Richard Adams, Judy Ruser,
and Jean Darling.

Missing from the photo are Svein Thoen,
who left earlier, and Ted Ruser.

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Sons of Norway Foundation Month

Curtis Cleveland, Foundation Director

The month of October is the Sons of Norway Foundation Month. Most of the lodges in the International Sons of Norway, including ours, will have presentations about the Foundation at their lodge meetings. Some lodges, including ours, will ask members to make a donation to the Sons of Norway Foundation.

The Sons of Norway Foundation, founded in 1966, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, is the charitable arm of the International Sons of Norway. Every year the Foundation awards 25 scholarships to members and the children/grandchildren of members. In 2022, the value of the scholarships awarded was \$133,000.

In addition to the scholarships, the Foundation awards grants to individuals, lodges, and community groups to further Norwegian culture and humanitarian issues. In 2022, the Foundation awarded over \$75,000 in grants.

At our October meeting, as the Foundation Director for the lodge, I will give a short presentation on the Foundation, with emphasis on the Foundation scholarships. I will ask members to consider giving individual donations to the Foundation, which are tax deductible.

Norwegian Language Class

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director

After taking a summer break, seven Lodge members gathered (in person and via zoom) at the Marshall Library to resume our study of the Norwegian language. All of us recommitted to being more serious in our language study this year. Astrid, one of our Lodge's native speakers, is a wonderful guide but even she can't help us gain competence in Norwegian if we apply ourselves just one hour a month!

We are hoping that everyone will come to our next class prepared to share something brief that they've written (e.g., a short conversation using what we've learned) or something that they've read for practice (e.g., a recipe or a page from a children's book). Through preparing and sharing, we will improve our language abilities together.

If you have never attended one of our classes but want to start, now is a perfect time to jump in! We are using the Norwegian lessons available on the Sons of Norway website found at https://www.sofn.com/norwegian_culture/norwegian_language_lessons/. These are available (with pronunciation guidance) to all Sons of Norway members and, like our class, to non-members as well!

Join us at our next class at 10:30 a.m. on October 11 at the Marshall District Library at 124 W. Green Street, Marshall. *Ser deg der!*

Askeladden's 35th Anniversary Celebration

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Acting Membership Secretary

Twenty-six people from Askeladden and Vasa, many in bunads or Norwegian sweaters, gathered to celebrate the special 35th Anniversary of our Lodge. Holly made an exquisite kransekake and the Lodge provided pulled pork and assorted breads. Members and guests brought side dishes, including three different offerings of salmon.

Artifacts, including many photo albums and historical items pertaining to our lodge, were on display. We honored those we have lost in the 5 years since our last anniversary celebration. Without a lodge pianist, we listened to the spoken words of Margery Stomne Selden's hymn, *Peace Among Earth's Peoples*. The Lodge honored Joyce Hare's 34 years of distinguished service with special recognition.

Those familiar with our lodge's early days told entertaining stories about significant lodge events. Richard Adams told how it came to be that his wife Louise was the first person to sign up for our lodge – even though he was the Norwegian half of the couple. He spoke of the gift



Askeladden members were joined by Vasa members to celebrate our 35th Anniversary together in September.

bequeathed to us by our first president, Myrtle Beinhauer, and how we still benefit today from her generosity. Louise Adams was the first person to win the trip to Norway. Jean Darling told the wonderful story of how we honored the 1998 Gilmore Artist Leif Ove Andnes with an elaborate reception offering many traditional Norwegian foods. These are great memories and I wish we had recorded these fascinating stories.

September 2023 event Askeladden Member attendance: Richard Adams, Diane Andert, Jeff Andert, Esther Ann Brown, Curtis Cleveland, Jean Darling, Kaaren DeWitt, Kerry DeWitt, Holly Jensen, Teri Koretsky, Elizabeth Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Daniel Renoos, Inger Thoen, Svein Thoen, Gail Thompson-Hadley, Astrid Willis

Guests: Jerry Gruber, Terese Malmberg, Chuck Nelson, Carol Olson, David Olson, David Runstrom, Judy Ruser, Ted Ruser, Margaret Stevenson

Please contact Joan O'Bryan with attendance corrections.

Recent Additions to the Library

Curtis Cleveland, Lodge Librarian

Last month, lodge members Kaaren and Kerry Dewitt donated 44 books to the lodge library, including:

- 1) 20 books written in the Norwegian language, published in Minneapolis, Chicago, and Norway; and
- 2) 22 books published by the Norwegian-American Historical Association, Northfield, Minneapolis.

Mange takk to Kaaren and Kerry.

ASKELOADEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Viking Ships and Dragon Heads!

Viking ships are a prime component of our ancient Norwegian culture. The Gokstad Viking ship was discovered in 1880 in Norway and has its own museum in Oslo which is currently closed for renovations. The Gokstad is believed to have been a fast, flexible ship which could be either sailed or rowed with 16 oar holes in each side for a total crew of 34. It was likely used for both raids and trade and remains Norway's most famous Viking ship. The location name of its burial mound is Gokstadhaugen / Konghaugen which means "King's Mound." <https://www.lifeinnorway.net/gokstad-ship/>

My sister and I visited the Gokstad in the summer of 1970 and could view it from the walkways surrounding it.

The Oseberg Viking Ship from 820 A.D., was discovered in 1904 and reconstructed from more than 2,000 pieces. When a model of the original ship was given a test sail, the model unfortunately sank. More recent analysis of the original ship indicates some differences in design that would have made the reconstructed model seaworthy like the original Viking ship.

<https://www.vikingskibsmuseet.dk/en/professions/boatyard/building-projects/the-oseberg-ship/>

The mid-ninth century Myklebust Viking Ship was discovered under a mound in 1874 but the ship had been burned as a burial site for King Audbjorn. Besides the remains of the king, excavators found tools, costly items, weapons, dogs, and horses. Also discovered was a large, enameled bronze vessel made in Ireland. The mound covering the charcoal layer indicates the ship was a very long 30 meters in length. Evidence for the construction of the ship is based on the more than 7,000 iron rivets found in the ashes.

<https://sagastad.no/en/the-history/the-myklebust-ship/>

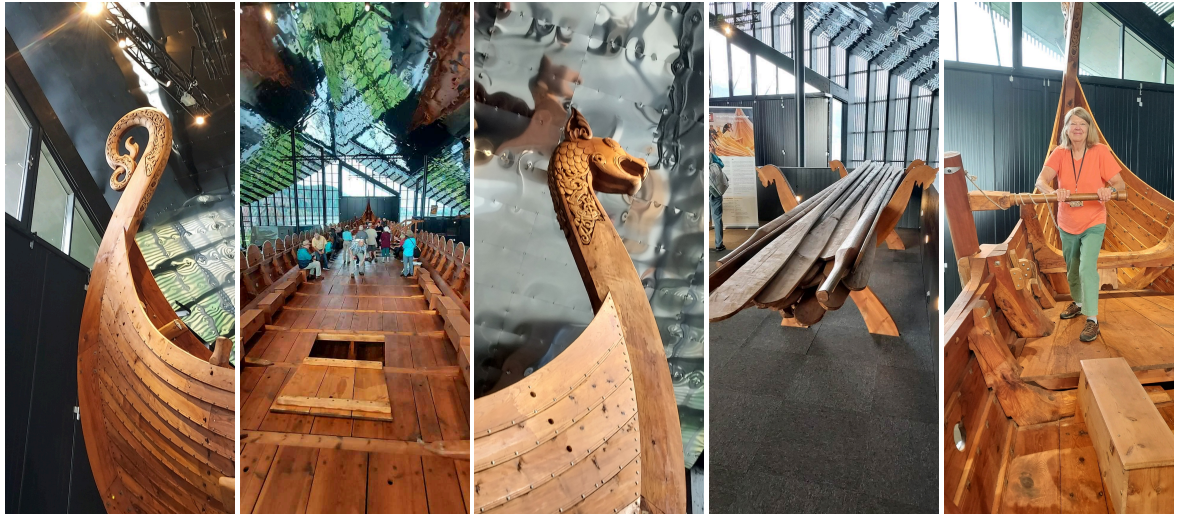
I was fortunate to visit the Myklebust Viking Ship replica which was recently completed in 2019. Funds are still being raised for the construction of the mast and sails, but they have successfully launched the ship in the nearby Nordfjordeid Harbor once per year. With stairs leading up to the ship, we could walk inside its immense length and get a real feel for the ship sailed by Vikings more than one thousand years ago. The Myklebust replica is housed in an immense building with a ceiling made to reflect the ship's interior, and to give the impression of moving sea waves. There are also Viking history displays and a shop where I found several excellent Viking books.

The afternoon before our Norsk Wood Works tour group visited the Sagastad Viking Centre with the Myklebust ship, we met with one of Norway's top woodcarvers, Rolf Taraldset. He described for us how he began with drawings, a plaster mold, and then increasingly large carvings as his steps in carving the dragon head and tail for the Myklebust Viking ship. It was awesome to meet the artistic woodcarver and then see his completed work on the Viking ship.

Below, left to right

Views of the Myklebust Viking ship:

- Tail
- Interior
- Dragon head
- Oars
- Gail at the helm



Left:

Myklebust Viking ship with shields up



Sagastad Viking Centre

Please join us on Sunday, October 1st, for the Fish Boil hosted by our Vasa lodge friends. After the Fish Boil, we will have a short business meeting to hold our annual Norway Trip drawing, hear reports on the Sons of Norway Foundation and nominations for 2024 lodge officers. Please contact me by email, text or phone if you are interested in serving as an Officer, Director, Committee Chair or any other Lodge position for 2024.

Gail Thompson-Hadley



SONS of NORWAY

October
2023

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

OKTOBER KALENDER

- oktober 1 - **Fish Boil with Vasa (First Sunday!) Askeladden Monthly Meeting. Festivities begin in Trinity parking lot around noon. Eat at 2 p.m. Meeting follows.**
Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo
- oktober 9 - Leif Erikson Day
- oktober 9 - Columbus Day/Canadian Thanksgiving Day
- oktober 11 - **Norwegian Language Class, Marshall District Library, 124 W. Green Street. Also broadcast via Zoom 10:30 a.m.**
- oktober 24 - United Nations Day – *FN-dagen*
- oktober 31 - Halloween
- november 1 - Last day to submit articles for Askeladden News
- november 5 - Daylight Saving Time ends
- november 7 - Election Day in Kalamazoo and other localities

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/SonsofNorway

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.

Gratulerer med dagen **Oktober Birthdays**

James Moe

James Kraatz

Haakon Selden

Clifford Davidson

Duncan Bjerke



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.