

Askeladden News



ASKELADDEN
LODGE 5-610

♦
March 2025

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askeladdenlodgepres@gmail.com

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joan.obryan@wmich.edu

Secretary: Karen Hare
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astutekaren@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:
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Treasurer: Curtis Cleveland
(269) 381-4531
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Cultural Director:
Elizabeth Kraatz
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Affiliation:
Sons of Norway International
<https://www.sofn.com>
District 5
<https://sonsofnorway5.com>

Lodge Contact Info:
Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com
(269) 350-3330
Kalamazoo, MI

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

Next meeting.

Sunday, March 9, 2025

2 PM potluck; 4 PM concert

Beautiful Music by Women Composers

by Gingkoh Salon at Ladies' Library Association



Spring your clock forward one hour, shake off the winter “blah,” and join us at Trinity Lutheran for a *koselig* (cozy) potluck gathering at 2 p.m. After our meal, we'll have a brief business meeting and then make our way to the Ladies' Library Association for a lovely concert to celebrate International Women's Day. The concert includes the music of our very own Margery Stomne Selden. Light refreshments will be served afterwards by the LLA.

The chamber concert *Beautiful Music by Women Composers* is hosted from 4-6 p.m. at the Ladies' Library Association (333 South Park St., Kalamazoo; free parking in their lot at the corner of Park and Lowell streets). Tickets are available [here](#) for \$30, or to avoid the processing fee, contact Elizabeth Kraatz for purchase (KraatzE@gmail.com). Askeladden Lodge members will be reimbursed up to \$15 for each ticket. For more information, see also the [poster](#) and [press release](#)

Musical duo Gingkoh Salon will perform works by 19th century women composers, including Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Clara Schumann, and many others. Gingkoh Salon features Dr. Ann Lemke (oboe, oboe d'amore, and English horn) and Amanda Sabelhaus (piano). The concert will also premiere sacred music composed by Margery Stomne Selden (1925-2022), arranged for oboe d'amore and piano. Dr. Selden was a Golden Member of Askeladden Lodge, so this is a special opportunity to celebrate her, 100 years after her birth. **Wear your bunad or Norwegian sweater to be extra festive!**

March Reminders



- The language learning group meets Wednesday 3/12 at 10:30 a.m. at Marshall District Library (124 W. Green St, Marshall, MI). We're continuing to use the [Sett i Gang \(3rd edition\) textbook](#). *Alle er velkommen!* (All are welcome)
- The Kalamazoo St. Patrick's Day parade is on Saturday 3/15. See page 2 for details. Marchers wanted!



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

www.norwayinkalamazoo.com



facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Fra Presidenten

Kris Spence

Our Lodge thrives because of the effort, dedication, and service from all our members. Whether you're volunteering on a committee, contributing to our events, or simply sharing knowledge about our Norwegian roots, every act of service strengthens our community.

We've had excellent servant leaders and here we honor two excellent examples: Gail Hadley-Thompson and Joan O'Bryan. These women each recently passed the leadership torch in their long-term roles (President and Newsletter editor, respectively) and yet still continue to serve in new roles. That's fantastic!

Want to follow their example? Just let me know where your passion lies and where you want to serve.

Serving this Lodge comes in many forms. It may mean writing or editing the newsletter, stepping up as president, or leading our music programs. It may be helping at an event or just offering a warm welcome to new members. Each of us brings something valuable to the table, and it's the collective effort that makes our club so special.

At this month's meeting we also get to help honor another leader, our own Margery Stomme Selden (1925-2022), by attending the *Beautiful Music by Women Composers* concert after our Lodge potluck.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful journey. Sometimes, the best way to lead is by helping others along the way. I look forward to seeing you on March 9th.

Feb. Meeting Recap: Kristian Birkeland - Visionary Physicist & Inventor

Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Membership Secretary

In February, 14 people gathered to share a hearty meal and fellowship. This was followed by an interactive presentation given by a special visitor from the Restoration Lodge in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Karn's father, Bob Erlandson, came to us by Zoom and presented on a historical Norwegian figure, who held innovative ideas about the aurora and was also an inventor.

Kristian Birkeland discovered the basic mechanism of the aurora and advanced mankind's knowledge of the Earth's geomagnetic environment. Bob welcomed and answered all of our questions about Birkeland and his legacy. A business meeting followed, where our recently inducted officers posed for a photo.

February 2025 Askeladden Member attendance: Dick Adams, Jeff Andert, Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Karen Hare, Elizabeth Kraatz, James Kraatz, Holly Jensen, Joan O'Bryan, Sandra Santas, Kris Spence, Laurie Swanson, Robert Swanson, Gail Thompson-Hadley

Guests: Bob Erlandson (presenter)

Please contact Membership Secretary Joan O'Bryan with any attendance corrections.



Askeladden Lodge officers: Elizabeth Kraatz, Karn Erlandson, Kris Spence, Karen Hare, James Kraatz, Joan O'Bryan, Curtis Cleveland, Laurie Swanson, Jeff Andert

For the complete list of officers and committees, see newsletter insert

Treasurer's Note- Curtis Cleveland

At the February 9th lodge meeting, \$54 was donated by members to the the District Five Nordic Legacy Foundation, the charitable arm of the District 5. The Foundation supports Masse Moro, Barnebirkie, Scholarships, and the Adult Heritage Camp. Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser.



Looking for St. Patrick's Day Parade Marchers!

Thanks to all who signed up to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade at our February meeting. Anyone else wanting to join us can still sign up at the March meeting. If you can't make the meeting, contact Joan O'Bryan to get on the roster. We will meet at 10:30 on Saturday, March 15. The parade will be over by noon. Come and join the fun!

Remembering Joyce M. Allworth (1943-2024)

It is with sadness that we share that Charter and Golden Member Joyce Mary (Bongers) Allworth passed away on November 3 at age 81. Joyce came from a strong, proud Norwegian family. Although she was a Sons of Norway member before our lodge was formed, Joyce, her mother Ruth (Hande) Bongers, as well as her aunts Mary (Hande) Carey and Esther (Hande) Van Erkel, were all Charter Members of Askeladden Lodge. The sisters Ruth, Mary, and Esther, who have all passed away, were aunts to our own Judy Hande-Skutnick, Carolyn Hande and Catherine Hande.

Joyce and her daughter Kathleen attended our 30th Anniversary celebration of Askeladden Lodge in 2018, where then-Vice President Curt Osborn awarded Joyce with a Golden Member certificate and pin recognizing her achievement of 30 years of membership in Sons of Norway.

As part of the special anniversary program, Joyce graciously read the story of Occupied Norway that her mother Ruth Bongers had received from a cousin in Norway and that she had submitted for the 1999 Sons of Norway District 5 publication *Remembrances of World War II in Norway*.

Our hearts go out to Judy, Carolyn and Catherine, and to all of Joyce's family on the loss of this very dear woman.



Joyce Allworth & Curt Osborn

Member News: Richard Adams celebrates milestone birthday

Askeladden Lodge sends special birthday wishes to Charter and Golden Member Richard Adams. Dick was the second person (his beloved wife Louise was the first!) to sign the Charter for our Lodge back in 1988. It is always a treat to get to spend time with Dick, so it has been heartwarming for him to attend our recent events. Dick turned 90 on March 2, but if you've seen him at our recent events, you know he looks and acts decades younger! Happy Birthday, Dick!



Dick & Louise Adams

2025-26 Myrtle Beinhauer Askeladden Lodge Scholarships

- Members with college-aged children or grandchildren: it's scholarship application time.
- Applications are due by March 15; up to two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded.
- The application form is here <http://bit.ly/3rAZ6uT> See also the [scholarship tab of the Lodge website](#).
- Contact Jeff Andert at (269) 967-1311 or jnandert@comcast.net for questions.



Mars Kalender

- 3/8 International Women's Day
- 3/9 Daylight savings time begins at 2 AM
- 3/9 **Askeladden Lodge Mtg, 2 PM**
- 3/9 **Beautiful Music by Women Composers chamber concert, 4 PM**
- 3/10 Commonwealth Day (Canada)
- 3/12 Norsk language group, 10:30 AM (Marshall District Library)
- 3/15 **Askeladden Lodge scholarships deadline**
- 3/15 District 5 scholarships deadline
- 3/15 **Kalamazoo St. Patrick's Day Parade**
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 *Vårjevndøgn* - Vernal Equinox, 1st Day of Spring
- 3/26 **Last day to submit Apr. newsletter articles**

March Birthdays

Gratulerer med dagen til:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Richard Adams | Dawn McLaughlin |
| Kristy Ambrosen | Joan O'Bryan |
| Diane Andert | Audrey Renoos |
| Esther Brown | Margaret Schmieding |
| Druanna Darling | Andrew Sherman |
| Arden Hetletvedt | Christina Sherman |
| Ronald Lee | David Sherman |
| | Esden Stafne |



Norske ord

Farvel, snø (*FarVELL, snur*) =
Goodbye, snow

Våren er her! (*VORen are har*) =
Spring is here!



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.



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Sports Medal Awards

Kaaren DeWitt, Sports Director

Sports medals earned through the Sons of Norway sports program will now be awarded annually at our Syttende Mai celebration meeting (5/18/25). Please notify Kaaren DeWitt by March 15 if you have qualified for a medal. Documentation can be turned in to Kaaren in person, e-mailed to kdewitt752@aol.com, texted to (616)250-1469, or mailed to 4629 Hilltop Dr, Caledonia, MI 49316. Thanks!

2024 Service Hours Needed

Karen Hare, Secretary

Each year, Sons of Norway Lodges are required to report their Community and Fraternal Service Hours. In 2024, this reporting changed in the Lodge to being compiled monthly versus annually with the Individual Tracking Sheet. This sheet is distributed by the Secretary at our Lodge meetings and can also be found by clicking [here](#). Bookmark this location for easy use throughout the year.

If you haven't already submitted your 2024 monthly hours, please provide an annual 2024 estimate by March 8th. Send them to Karen Hare (astutekaren@gmail.com). Many thanks!

2025 Askeladden Lodge Officers & Committees

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| President | Kris Spence |
| Vice President | Open |
| Secretary | Karen Hare |
| Membership Secretary | Joan O'Bryan |
| Treasurer | Curtis Cleveland |
| Cultural Director | Elizabeth Kraatz |

COMMUNICATIONS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Newsletter Editor | Karn Erlandson |
| Newsletter Publisher | |
| Electronic | Karn Erlandson |
| Paper | Joan O'Bryan (Acting) |
| Facebook Administrator | Joan O'Bryan |
| Webmaster | Karn Erlandson |

SUPPORTING OFFICERS

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Norwegian Language | Astrid Willis |
| Counselor | Elizabeth Kraatz |
| S/N Foundation Director | Kris Spence |
| Historian | Curtis Cleveland |
| Librarian | Curtis Cleveland |
| Pianist | Laurie Swanson |
| Publicity Director | Kris Spence |
| Social Director | Jeff & Diane Andert |
| Sports/ Rec. Director | Kaaren DeWitt |
| Youth Director | James Kraatz |
| Sunshine | Arden Hetlevedt |

COMMITTEES

Note: Committee Memberships indicated below are as of 2/19/25. If interested in joining a committee, please contact Kris Spence and the relevant committee chair.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Audit Committee | Judy Hande-Skutnick (Chair), Holly Jensen, Diane Andert |
| Cultural Committee | Elizabeth Kraatz (Chair), Holly Jensen |
| Social Committee | Jeff & Diane Andert (Co-Chairs), Teri Koretsky |
| Membership Committee | Joan O'Bryan, Curtis Cleveland, Kaaren & Kerry DeWitt |
| Publicity Committee | Kris Spence (Chair), Curtis Cleveland, Joan O'Bryan |
| Friluftsliv/ Sports & Rec. | Kaaren DeWitt (Chair), Kerry DeWitt |
| Scholarship Committee | Jeff Andert (Chair), Holly Jensen, Joan O'Bryan |
| Finance Committee | Curtis Cleveland (Chair), Kaaren DeWitt, Kris Spence, Joyce Hare |
| Norway Trip Committee | Kris Spence (Chair), Curtis Cleveland, Joan O'Bryan, Karen Hare |
| Sports/ Rec. Director | Kaaren DeWitt |
| District 5 Representatives | Curtis Cleveland, Karen Hare |
| Restauration Bicentennial | |
| (Ad Hoc) | Elizabeth Kraatz (Chair), Curtis Cleveland, Joan O'Bryan |
| Iona Robbins Fund | |
| (Ad Hoc) | Gail Thompson (Chair), Joan O'Bryan |