



# 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](https://facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge)

April 2021

04-21

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

Sept - April: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, 2 p.m.  
May only: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 2 p.m.

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**Joint Meeting: Askeladden, Sonja Henie, Sognefjord & Vasa**

**Sunday, April 11**

**2 p.m. (online)**

## Following the Threads

*A look at the history, culture, and traditions of  
Scandinavian textiles through time*

**by Lisa Beams and Jodi Gerard**

Jodie Gerard and Lisa Beams will offer a glance at several aspects of the Fiber Arts in Scandinavia. From their start in the Middle Ages to their significance today, we'll take a closer look at the fibers, techniques and regional patterns that are recognizable around the world.

Jodie and Lisa are both active members of South County Fiber Arts, a program of the Vicksburg Cultural Arts Center. They are eager to share their passion for fiber arts with you.

NOTE: If you have some vintage Norwegian, Swedish or Danish textiles that you would like to share with the other viewers, please have them handy before the Q&A period at the end of the program.



**Meeting info:**

Topic: **Askeladden Fiber Program**

Time: Apr 11, 2021, 02:00 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: **952 8556 2628**

Passcode: **276924**

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: **952 8556 2628**

and Passcode: **276924**

If you need a practice session in advance, contact Judy Olson at [SofNLansingMI@gmail.com](mailto:SofNLansingMI@gmail.com) (no later than 8 p.m. on Saturday).

# ASKELADDEN NEWS

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sons of Norway Hockey Team

*Curtis Cleveland, Lodge Historian*

Ten years ago the lodge took action to become a sponsor of a local adult hockey team.

At the time, lodge member Branson Feringa had recently organized a team as part of the Kalamazoo Adult Hockey League. Brandon asked lodge president Orlin Loen for lodge sponsorship of his team, which he wanted to call the Sons of Norway Hockey Team.

That summer, the lodge approved the sponsorship of the team, selecting the uniform for the team as well. The July 2012 issue of the *Viking* magazine has a picture of Brandon Feringa wearing the uniform.

In the September 2011 newsletter, Orlin wrote: "For Norwegians that have a long history of participating in winter sports it seems natural that our Lodge would be interested in sponsoring a hockey team."

Currently, Patrick Skinner is the coach of the Sons of Norway team for the 2020-21 season, the 10<sup>th</sup> season. Pat, a member of the team since it was organized, has coached the team since the 2017-18 season.

Prior to Pat's leadership, Tom Schripsema led the team for the first two years, 2011-13; Terry Pingel followed, leading the team for four years, 2013-17.

Besides Brandon Feringa, lodge member Nathan Varga, grandson of Fred and Chris Sitkins, was a member of the Sons of Norway Hockey Team.

The hockey games of the Kalamazoo Adult Hockey League, which are open to the public and free, are usually played on Friday nights at Wings West (Just north of I-94, exit 72). If you are not familiar with this place, besides the ice rinks, it has an excellent bar and restaurant.

A few weeks ago, I attended one of the games featuring the Sons of Norway team. They won, skating extremely well. I was surprised by the number of spectators, more than I have seen in prior years.

## Thanks from Michigan Ski for Light

Mr. John Peiffer, Treasurer of the Michigan Ski for Light, sent the following message to the members of Askeladden Lodge on March 13.

*On behalf of the Michigan Ski for Light Organization (MSFL) we would like to take this time to thank the Sons of Norway Lodge (5-610) of Kalamazoo for your generous donation of \$100 to support next year's 2022 MSFL Event. It is because of the generous support from people like you that make this organization possible and allow all of us to continue the tradition that was started in 1976.*

*The Michigan Ski for Light is a Regional Chapter of our parent organization, Ski for Light, Inc.*

*Ski for Light, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 1975 by Olav Pederson to promote the physical fitness of visually and mobility impaired adults, in an environment where "we can't" is replaced with "we can."*

*In Michigan at about the same time, 1978, Harold Brunvand began a "Fun in the Snow" weekend with the help of his friends including the Sons of Norway. They had volunteers teach cross country skiing to students from the Michigan School for the Blind. In 1981, the event was moved to the Higgins Lake area and renamed Michigan Ski for Light as a regional event.*

*Again, our sincere thanks for your donation in bringing joy to deserving individuals.*

*Sincerely,*

*John Peiffer, Treasurer, Michigan Ski for Light*

You can visit the Michigan Ski for Light website at [www.msfl.org](http://www.msfl.org)

As a reminder, at our January meeting, Deb Wiese, a member of the Sonja Henie Sons of Norway Lodge with 40 years of experience with International Ski for Light and Michigan Ski for Light presented an entertaining, spellbinding and sometimes humorous look at her Ski for Light experience in Casper, Wyoming, in late January 2020, just before the world shut down due to the pandemic. This live presentation was a joint event with Sonja Henie, Sognefjord and Askeladden lodges. The online event was designed and hosted by Sonja Henie Lodge. The program was recorded and is available to view online. If you haven't had a chance to view this program, you can still enjoy it at [https://youtu.be/t08oQK\\_Tais](https://youtu.be/t08oQK_Tais)

## Membership News

### You are invited to help us celebrate!

I have a happy announcement to make for an event happening very soon!

Arden and Ruth Hetletvedt will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on April 10. Due to the pandemic, they are not able to hold anything special at this time. So their son, who lives out of the country, is holding a "Card Shower" for them. Everyone in the lodge is invited to send a card for the Hetletvedt's Golden Anniversary to:

Mr. and Mrs. Arden and Ruth Hetletvedt  
320 Carpenter Drive  
Battle Creek MI 49017-9712

## Askeladden Lodge Library

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

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.

# ASKE LADDEN NEWS

## *Fra Presidenten*

### God Påske! God Våren!

When I think of the happy Easters and springs of my own childhood, I have fond memories from the 1950's of a new dress, hat and little white gloves for church on Easter Sunday after my sister and I had colored hard-boiled eggs and found our hidden baskets with jelly beans, chocolate eggs and chocolate bunnies. One of our favorite spring events was Baby Animal Day when we visited all the MSU farms to see the newborn lambs, calves, piglets, foals, and baby chicks.

Norwegians today celebrate the spring Easter season with colored eggs, chocolate treats, and family meals. Many often enjoy a week at their cabins in the mountains for one last week of skiing similar to my own Wisconsin son and family who spent a few days skiing in northern Michigan last week. Another Norwegian Easter tradition is apparently the enjoyment of crime novels and films. Read more via the Sons of Norway link [InfoBank\\_220.5.13.pdf](#)

Easter in Norway was not always such a pleasant time although families found joyful ways to celebrate. I asked our new Cultural Director, Astrid Willis, who grew up in Oslo, to share some of her Easter-time memories. Astrid's early years were during the WWII Nazi occupation when times were hard and food was scarce. Times after the war were still difficult for Norwegians until the discovery of oil about 1960. Astrid's father joined the Marine at age 16 and sailed during both world wars, and then worked his way up to Chief Engineer, but sadly, they rarely saw him at home since he was always off sailing.

Astrid told me the children would take their small tin buckets to the lovely Lutheran church, Ila Kirken, across the street from her home to be filled with porridge which she brought home to share with her younger brother. She loved going to Sunday school there as a child.

Astrid said ahead of Easter, they would bring slim tree branches inside and put them in warm water so they would leaf out by Easter. They would decorate the branches with paper streamers and feathers. They didn't color eggs but hard-boiled them and put them in a nest made of cotton or paper scraps. They also drew pictures which they hung up and their mother had special puzzles for the holidays.

Astrid's mother was an excellent baker who would make homemade sweet buns with raisins and sukrat (a hard, jellied candy), the best-ever rye bread, and sour cream porridge with butter in the middle and sweet red sauce. Boiled fish and potatoes were very common and they always had homemade soup before dinner with a nice slice of homemade bread.

Astrid told me they went to school 6 days a week so they really appreciated their Easter vacation days when they had more time to play in the big Oslo park across from where she lived. They would skate there in winter, and had fun outside with their friends year round.

I asked about Norwegian Easter flowers and Astrid shared the photos I've included here: Påske Lilje (Daffodil) and the wildflowers, Blåveis (lavender Wood Anemone or Hepatica). Hvitveis is the white variety of Wood Anemone. They also had lilacs in colors from deep burgundy to soft pink and white. My best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy spring 2021!

Gail Thompson-Hadley

## Recap of the March Lodge meeting

*Joan Renaas O'Bryan, Vice President*

Our March meeting, hosted by Sonja Henie Lodge, was a huge success, with 35 members and guests from four lodges participating. Our virtual meeting format has been a wonderful way to include our distant members in our activities. We had members from several cities attend, including from as far away as Reno, NV.

Originally scheduled in September as our very first virtual meeting of the pandemic, the program was postponed at the last minute after the presenter's husband was injured in a mishap. I think everyone who attended would agree that the wait for the rescheduled program was well worth it, as we all seemed to really enjoy the program and the speaker.

Kjersten Offenbecker, co-proprietor of the **Nordic Pineapple Bed and Breakfast**, gave the program and answered our questions following her presentation.

One year ago, some people confused the Norwegian flag flying in front of the B & B for a Confederate flag and what happened next made the national news. Kjersten described the ramifications of the misunderstanding and she explained the approach she took to analyze and resolve the problem.

We also learned what touches give the St. Johns B & B, located about 20 minutes north of Lansing, its Nordic flair. Hint: photos of the Nordic breakfast food were irresistible and have some of us dreaming of staying at the B & B in

the near future.

The program was recorded, but as yet we have not heard that the recording has been posted online. We plan to share the link with you once we get it.

If you want to learn more about the Nordic Pineapple, visit their website at <https://www.thenordicpineapple.com/>

*March Member attendance: Curtis Cleveland, Betsy Fish, Gail Hadley-Thompson, Judy Hande-Skutnick, Joyce Hare, Karen Hare, Arden Hetletvedt, Holly Jensen, Karen Kunze, Joan O'Bryan, Sandra Santas, Terese Sherman, Marilyn Stewart, Inger Thoen, Svein Thoen, Chris Walvoord*



Påske Lilje





# SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

## APRIL KALENDER



- april 2 - *Langfredag* - Good Friday
- april 4 - *Påskedag* - Easter Sunday
- april 11 - **Askeladden Joint Program (online) - Following the Threads**
- april 22 - Earth Day
- mai 1 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles

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

### Gratulerer med dagen!

*Fødselsdag Hilsener*

### April Birthdays

Lyra Fugett	John Riggs
Jamie Lynn Stafne	Karen Morey
Dennis Darling	Leif H. Selden
Helen Spence	Katherine Harvatine



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.