



**Meetings: cancelled until further notice due to State of Emergency**

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 with Sonja Henie Lodge,  
Askeladden Lodge, & Sognefjord Lodge**

**Sunday, January 10**

**2 p.m. (via Zoom)**

## Participating in Ski for Light

**By Deb Wiese**

Deb Wiese has been a member of Sonja Henie Lodge for several years and has regaled the lodge more than once with her adventures with Ski for Light. Why is it amazing to hear her talk about such a Norwegian thing as skiing? Deb is totally blind. She participates in Ski for Light, an organization that makes it possible for visual- and mobility-impaired skiers to enjoy a week of great winter activities – cross country skiing with guides and enjoying food and social activities at meal time and in the evenings.

Join us on Zoom to hear about her latest adventures, which took place at the Casper (Wyoming) Mountain Outdoor Center in late January 2020, just before the world closed so many doors for the corona virus. Deb will be speaking from her cell phone, while pictures from Ski for Light events will be shown on your screen.

Everyone welcome! Questions? Email [SofNLansing@gmail.com](mailto:SofNLansing@gmail.com).

Uneasy about using Zoom or have questions about it? Just let us know via email (no later than January 7) that you would like a little practice session in advance. We'd love to work with you one-on-one so you can join us with confidence!

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**Zoom info:**

Time: January 10, 2 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join on laptop, desktop, or other device on which you can view email messages:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89867510623?pwd=Z2xYaFVqYUg3eTJRRTJoYVlsagUrdz09>

OR join on other devices with audio/video capability using downloaded Zoom app:

Meeting ID: **898 6751 0623**

Passcode: **011021 (note that it is the date of the meeting)**

OR join by normal phone: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Nordic News Weekly Tuesday Program

Are you aware you have the opportunity every Tuesday evening to participate in an online Nordic cultural presentation? This weekly event is planned and coordinated by Sons of Norway District 5 and is open to anyone who wants to view or participate.

Tune in at 7:20 p.m. (Eastern), 6:20 p.m. (Central) every Tuesday.

By computer:

<https://gotomeet.me/SofN-D5>

By phone: **646-749-3112** (access code: **509-077-557**)

By iPhone, iPad, or Android tablet/phone: download the GoToMeeting app from the Apple or Google Play Store.

Launch the app and enter the meeting code: **SofN-D5**

These programs have been offered almost every week since April in a response to the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are several dozen recordings posted online with varying topics. Find these past episodes of Nordic News at:

[www.sonsofnorway5.com/programs/speakers\\_bureau.php](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/programs/speakers_bureau.php)

Follow the instructions to view the program.

## Membership News

### Velkommen til oss

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Welcome to new members, **Dan Hadley, Katie Harvatine, and Christine Hadley.**

When my sister and I were young adults, our dad, Conrad Thompson, a charter member of Sonja Henie Lodge in Lansing, gave us memberships to encourage us to appreciate our Norwegian heritage. Last October, I decided to follow our dad's model and gave our three adult children early Christmas presents of memberships in Askeladden Lodge. Dan lives with his family in Eagle River, Wisconsin, Katie and family live in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, and Christine and family live in Chardon, Ohio. And the six grandkids received the d'Aulaire's Leif the Lucky books from Grandma Gail for Christmas. The kids and grandkids do exhibit an affinity for friluftsliv, the outdoor life. I look forward to learning more together about our Norwegian history, literature, cooking, and cultural traditions. I also hope to keep up with them and their outdoor adventures hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing!

## Fra Sportsdirektøren

### Sports Challenge: Virtual Walk to Norway

Dear Lodge Members,

We virtually didn't make it to Ringsaker, Norway. The six of us participating virtually ended up somewhere in the Atlantic. Our aggregate miles totaled 3,512.3 miles. Short of the 4,588 miles required to complete the journey. Those that participated included Gail Hadley, Teri Koretsky, Joyce Hare, Joan O'Bryan, Bev and me. We swam, walked, ran, tread-milled, stationary bicycled, and road cycled. Some of the participating members achieved sports medals, which is a bonus to our effort.

Remember, if you want to participate in the sports medal program all you need to do is record your activities and report them to me. The criteria for any medal is based on your age group. You have a year to achieve any medal. So it is DOABLE.

SoN added two new sports medals this year. The one that interests me and applies to some of us already is the Idrettshellt medal. It is the next medal after the Enamel medal. One must have previously qualified for the Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Enamel Medals in a sport. To earn the Idrettshellt you simply double the miles of the Enamel requirements for a sport.

Godt nytt år  
Curt

## News from District 5 on Virtual Walk to Norway

Hello, All,

I would like to thank the members from District 5 Lodges who participated in the Virtual Walk to Norway Challenge.

Your lodge's \$50 entry fee will benefit the children who attend Masse Moro, D5's Norwegian heritage camp.

Hopefully, this challenge got your members moving and helped to improve their stamina and health during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Norwegian people embrace Friluftsliv - free air life (outdoor living) and spend time outside in all seasons.



The Power Point slide show on the challenge will be published on the District 5 webpage at the end of December. Lodges who participated will have their names listed as well.

Many of our participating members also earned sports medals for their efforts.

Flott jobb, alle sammen - great job, everyone.

Cheryl

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser

Former D5 Sports and Recreation Director

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## *Fra Presidenten*

### Cross-Country Ski Time

Greetings Askeladden members as we begin a new year. We expect a long winter ahead as COVID-19 continues to surge and take lives but if we wear our masks, social distance, wash our hands, and avoid crowds, we hope we will keep our families and selves safe. And then as the population is vaccinated, we will eventually be able to return to group activities.

Thankfully, we can still enjoy outdoor hikes, and with adequate snow, the joy of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. I recently came across a March 1989 issue of the *Viking* stashed in a box of children's books with a fascinating article on cross-country skiing in Norway which I'd like to share with you here.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

### An Old Man on Skis

by Pat Brien

(excerpted from March 1989 *Viking*)

... It was the late '60s. Michael (my Norwegian fiancée) and I had finished college in the United States... Michael returned to Norway to do his stint in the Norwegian army, and was earning \$1 per day. I followed.

Unable to speak the language, I found a job working in the darkest recesses of an Oslo bank. My net disposable income after taxes and a student loan payment was \$55 per month... A walk downtown to buy an ice cream was considered a big night out. The Norwegian summer was short, and walking in ankle-deep slush in November for ice cream didn't have the same appeal. The inevitable could no longer be avoided. This was Norway. Winter entertainment in Norway was skiing. I was going to have to learn to cross-country ski.

A true Norwegian longs for snow, prays for snow, and starts waxing skis in August. Norwegian babies are packed in sheepskins and towed in sleds behind skiing parents as soon as they can sit up. They are given their own skis as soon as they can toddle. But I was an American, born to cruise, to drive a car. I knew that God never intended me to sweat my way across a mountain with boards strapped to my feet...

...I inherited my father-in-law-to-be (Hans') old ski gear. Hans was a dear man, 5'6" tall, a little fat, and not given to any form of ostentatious display. I was 5'11" tall, thin, and concerned about my fashion statement. From Hans I received one pair of blue knickers, size wide; one blue anorak, same size; one pair of hickory skis, extra heavy; and one pair of brown, high-topped ski boots, WWI issue. The lessons began.



Dan using his dad's ice fishing auger

People born with coordination and balance cannot understand how others can fall while standing still on a flat surface. Perhaps it's a gift. Finally, after weeks of practicing in gentle treeless fields in the dark of night, I was pronounced READY to ski wooded trails in the daylight.

Saturday morning we took the train to the woods surrounding Oslo and started off. The snow was deep, the trails were beautiful. I felt like the Little Engine that Could. "I think I can, I think I can..." Left, right, left, right, don't put your poles under your skis, bend your knees, and try not to look like an idiot. Suddenly Michael whispered from behind, "Look who's coming!" That was a fatal mistake, akin to blowing one's nose while Arnold Palmer is trying to sink a 20 foot putt. My concentration was broken.

It was not a pretty fall; not a slight glitch in stride, but a major pole-twisting, ski-knotting trauma. The man at whom I was supposed to look skied up to me and stopped, offering his hand in assistance. To fall is one thing, but to suffer further humiliation by allowing this man, a smooth-skiing native, to help me, was too much. Ignoring his out-stretched hand, I continued a personal struggle to get both skis pointed in one direction. The man, his attempts at kindness scorned, skied on.

"Do you know who that was?" Michael asked.

"An old man on skis." I replied, spitting snow.

"That was the king."

To this day I consider it among the major mistakes in my life. King Olav, beloved king of Norway, is one of my heroes. I still ski, and still fall. Now I wait for a gallant rescuer, but I think I botched a once in a lifetime chance.



Ice fishing in northern Wisconsin - Dan and kids



Gwen Meredith, breaking trail on Drummond Island



Heading out back on skis, Dan & Rachel and Christine Hadley



Christine and son bundled up for snow time fun



# SONS of NORWAY

*Askeladden Lodge 5-610*

507 Clinton Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

## JANUAR KALENDER



- Januar 1 - Nyttårsdag - New Year's Day
- Januar 6 - Helligtrekongersdag - Epiphany
- **Januar 10** - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting via Zoom 2 p.m.**
- Januar 16 - Sønner av Norge - Sons of Norway founded, 1895
- Januar 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Januar 21 - H.R.H. Princess Ingrid Alexandra 2004
- Februar 1 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles.



**Gratulerer med dagen!**

*Fødselsdag Hilsener*

**January Birthdays**

Brett Jensen	Scott Erickson
Karn Erlandson	Magnus Selden
Aric Nesbitt	Anthony Morey

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

### Askeladden Lodge Library

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

Contact Curtis Cleveland 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.