



# the ASKELADDEN news

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

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

April 2020

04-20

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

**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.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
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Kalamazoo, MI

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## Fra Presidenten

I hope today finds you and your family healthy in these challenging times of the spreading coronavirus-19. When we are confined at home to stop the spread of the virus, we can still find ways to connect and care for each other. Along with family and friends, we can also reach out to our Sons of Norway brothers and sisters. Each of us can make those connections every day via phone, text message, email or other communication technologies. Take the initiative and call someone today whom you haven't heard from for a while.

We have all heard the CDC imperative advice: stay home except for essentials, wash your hands with soap for the minimum 20 seconds, don't touch your face, and maintain at least 6 feet distance from others. My son is a family medicine MD caring for his patients in northern rural Michigan. He has called me often the past few weeks and now recommends I order my groceries on-line for curbside pick-up.

Additionally, my son advises me to do all those healthy behaviors most of us know about but don't always follow to help our immune systems better fight off infection. Get seven hours of sleep every night. Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, nuts, whole grains, and sufficient protein. Get outside daily for fresh air and exercise. Keep in touch with neighbors in case I need help. Call my doctor if I have any medical concerns. And ponder whatever spiritual guidance might be helpful.

I don't know when I will make it back to Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin to visit my three kids and six grand kids, but I have seen the one-year-old gobbling a blueberry muffin and wave to me via Skype on my laptop, and had good visits with the older children about their bike rides to the neighborhood park and their on-line school work including group sessions via Zoom. There is still plenty of snow in northern Wisconsin so the three young ones had a picnic on top of the ten foot pile of snow next to their driveway – hearty young Norwegians! They are still having fun on their sleds and snowshoes although not with other young friends for now.

I am fortunate that I have a friendly, big golden retriever, Oakley, who relishes a good romp out back in the orchard and fields and keeps me company at night. My cat, Olivia, likes to sit in my lap when I'm trying to type on my computer. The backyard chickens get me outside often to check for eggs since they have taken to eating them lately if I don't retrieve them from the nest box soon after being laid.

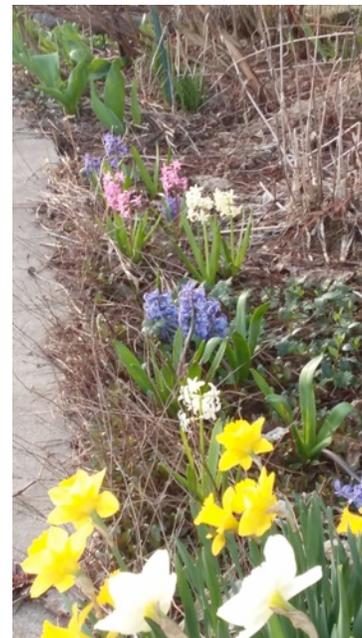
The Sons of Norway district convention planned for June in Madison and the August international convention in Norway have both been postponed until 2022. We are all sad that our own lodge programs need to be postponed, likely until the fall of 2020, or until our health professionals and governor deem it safe to gather in groups again. We will learn about Norwegian fiber arts and other aspects of Norwegian culture in the future. And we will celebrate together again with even more appreciation for our heritage and each other!

Meanwhile, you can visit the Sons of Norway website for the five-minute language lessons which many of you expressed interest in at our February meeting on the index cards I had placed at each table. Go to the main webpage, sign in or create an account if you haven't already. Go to Member Resources.

Take good care of yourselves and please contact me or any of our officers if you need help or would just enjoy a friendly conversation. Time now for me to get outside and hunt for the early wildflowers. Spring is here!

Gail Thompson Hadley

*more of Gail's photos are on page 2*



*Daffodils and fragrant hyacinths*

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## March Nordic Treats: Yummiest Program Ever

*Holly Jensen, Cultural Director*

Oh what a delicious time we had in March at our Nordic Treats program.

Askeladden Lodge members, and several guests, rolled dough, poured batter, pressed cookies, sprinkled pearl sugar and put their 'hearts' into making waffles, krumkaker, æbleskiver and spritz cookies with delectable results! There was more than one shout of: Oh no, uffda, does this look done?, and That's Beautiful!

Everyone learned a little more, or made their first attempt, at baking the unique and gadget laden treats that our ancestral lands are known for. When the treats were done, we shared fellowship and a table full of tasty food including: folded omelet, Nordic cheeses, croissants, salads, ham, kringla and more, followed by our impressive Nordic Treats.

A big thank you to Esther Ann Brown for decorating the tables with vintage kitchenware equipment befitting the day. It was an afternoon of learning, laughter, hugs and wonderful food.



*Jeff and Diane perfect their 5-of-hearts waffle making!*



*The Spritz Cookie Station*



*Wesenbergs and Anderts*



*The finished product enjoyed by all: Spritz cookies, Five-of-hearts waffles with savory & sweet toppings, krumkaker and æbleskiver.*



*Judy was an æbleskiver genius*



*Marty Riggs sprinkles powdered sugar on the æbleskiver.*

## 2020 Officers Installed

Officer installation was delayed until February after weather conditions cancelled our January meeting.



*Curtis Cleveland, Judy Hande-Skutnick, Gail Thompson Hadley, Holly Jensen, Curt Osborn, and Joan O'Bryan*

## Fra Presidenten

photos by Gail Thompson Hadley



*Oakley, my hiking pal, enjoys a wade in the Creek out back.*



*Pussywillows against the glorious blue sky.*



*Early daffodils poke up through spring snow.*

# ASKELOADDEN NEWS

## Farewell to Samhold 5-473

### And then there were six

*Joan Renoos O'Bryan*

I don't know the full history of the Sons of Norway in Michigan. There have been seven lodges for as long as I can remember. The Benton Harbor lodge Vennskap 5-516 closed some time ago, but I don't know when. Chartered in 1966, Vennskap had lost a handful of members at one point who left to form our lodge in Kalamazoo. Myrtle Beinhauer, our lodge's first president, and ultimately our benefactor, was one of those people.

Last year, the second-oldest lodge in Michigan, Samhold 5-473 located in Pontiac and Auburn Hills since 1964, decided to disband and have its members join Michigan's oldest lodge, Nordkap, 5-378.

For many years, Samhold was a strong lodge within the Sons of Norway. Despite being so far from the majority of lodges in District 5, Samhold hosted the District Convention in 1974. Samhold also provided four people serving in leadership positions at the District level over the years. Many of us are familiar with Gil Bergsrud, who was our Zone Director for many years. He also served as a Director and Vice President of District 5. We were saddened last year to hear of the passing of Gil's wife Rita. Another familiar name from Samhold is Eugene Steensma. Gene served as President of District 5 at one time, before moving on to the International Board to serve in various capacities, including as a Governor on the Sons of Norway Foundation. *Editors note: We just learned that Gene Steensma passed away March 25. We express our condolences to Gene's family and friends.*

Samhold 5-473 merged with Nordkap of Farmington Hills effective January 1, 2020, leaving only six Sons of Norway lodges in Michigan, five of them in the lower peninsula.

Let's look at the brighter side of things. In merging with Nordkap, Samhold made donations to these excellent causes within the Sons of Norway: Nordkap Scholarship Fund, Masse Moro Camp Fund, Barnebirkie Fund, and the District 5 General Fund. We know that at Askeladden, despite losing some members, we have attracted new members in recent years and continue to do so through word of mouth, public cultural events and our social media presence. We met our new member recruitment the past two years in a row and are on our way to doing so again this year. New and successful lodges continue to be chartered around the country. And some of them are in District 5. Sons of Norway has much to offer, and at Askeladden we plan to help people continue to discover that!

## Welcome to Askeladden!

We extend a warm welcome to our newest lodge members, Richard and Gretchen Wesenberg. The Wesenbergs attended our March Nordic Treats program and signed up for membership the next day. We had so much fun getting to meet - and bake with - Gretchen and Richard!

## District President Har Ordet

Kjære Venner,

As of now I am sure that most of the members of the District have received word that the 2020 Fifth District Convention/Meeting and the 2020 International Convention/Meeting have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a unanimous vote by the International Board of Directors to cancel the 2020 conventions/meetings. President Ron Stubbings has instructed all sons of Norway Officers, Directors, and Delegates to, "continue in service until the regular session lodge meetings of 2022." As members of Sons of Norway we need to follow President Stubbings instruction in order to maintain our cohesiveness as a fraternal in this time of uncertainty.

As your District President I am requesting that all local lodge Presidents and Officers be prudent, and that they follow all State and Federal government mandates concerning the COVID-19 virus. Be thoughtful and do not put yourself or any of your lodge members in any undue risk. Stay in touch with your other lodge members using the telephone and electronic means (conference calls or Skype).

These are difficult times we are all experiencing. It is my hope that when this pandemic is over the Sons of Norway will continue to be as strong and vibrant as ever.

It is with sadness that the Fifth District has lost one of its finest members, Gene Steensma, who passed away on March 25, 2020. Gene was a past Fifth District President, an International Director, and a long-time member and President of Samhold 5-473. Gene will always remain in the hearts of those who knew him. Keep Gene's family in your prayers as they go through their time of mourning.

Med beste hilsen,  
Andrew Iver Johnsen  
Sons of Norway Fifth District President

## Dick & Louise Adams

Dick Adams tells us that Louise started the year in a bad way when she broke her hip on January 1. Although she has completely recovered from that unfortunate mishap, she now finds herself isolated without visitors in Amber Place due to the pandemic.

Louise, despite the trying circumstances in these strange times, we all wish you a very happy Easter and we look forward to more normal times when we can see you and Dick again.

## Happy Easter to the Adams' and to our whole Sons of Norway family!



*This exquisite table centerpiece was created by Louise Adams for our Easter time joint meeting with Vasa at the Portage Senior Center in April 2010.*



*Teri Koretsky shared a wonderful travelogue at our February meeting.*



*Sports Dir. Curt Osborn presents Bev Osborn with a sports medal.*



# SONS of NORWAY

Celebrating **125** Years

Askeladden Lodge  
507 Clinton Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

## APRIL 2020 KALENDER

- april 5 - **Askeladden Joint Program with Vasa - cancelled**  
due to global pandemic and Michigan's state of emergency
- april 5 - *Palmesøndag* - Palm Sunday
- april 10 - *Langfredag* - Good Friday
- april 12 - *Påskedag* - Easter Sunday
- mai 1 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles



NOTICE: All Sons of Norway events at the District and International Level, such as the Masse Moror Heritage Camp, District 5 Convention and the International Convention scheduled through August 2020 have either been cancelled or postponed beyond 2020. All Askeladden local 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.

### Gratulerer med dagen!

*Fødselsdag Hilsener*

### April Birthdays

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



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.