



Nordkapen

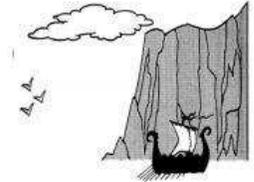
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

The North Cape 71° 10' 21" North Latitude – The Top of Europe

A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway

Organized August 10, 1929 – The first Sons of Norway Lodge in Michigan

<http://www.detroitnorwegians.com>



November-December 2016

Volume 86 Issue 8

2016 NORDKAP EVENTS

November 12 – Scandinavian bazaar, 10 am to 4 pm at the Finnish Center

November 16: Norwegian language classes resume for 4 weeks at the Swedish Club

November 20 – Lodge Meeting, 4 pm at the Swedish Club

December 11 – Christmas party, 2 pm at Western Golf and Country Club



GRATULERER MED DAGEN!

November Birthdays

Erik Bryhn, Carmen Collins, Inger Ehrenfeld, Karen Herche, Sheldon Johnson, Roy Marvel, Alexandria Sturgeon, Ondrianna Tavgian, Stacy Torgerson

December Birthdays

Derrick Hendricks, Chet Jehle, Elsa Jorgensen, Leiv Erik Lundberg, Gary Olson, Russ Simms, Merete Stenersen-Eelnurme, Natalie Flessland Vaal, Linda Viik

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NOVEMBER 20TH MEATBALL DINNER PRECEEDS ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND THE EXPLORATION OF CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN NORWAY

The Meal: Wear your Norwegian sweaters and come hungry to our next gathering of members at the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills. on Sunday, November 20. The social time begins at 4 p.m. Dinner at 4:30 will be meatballs, potatoes, and the fixings.

The Program: Our cultural program will examine Christmas traditions in Norway, including that popular figure, the Julenisse. Geir Gronstad will warm up his vocal cords and teach us the songs to sing around the Christmas tree, so we can be ready for the real thing in December.

The Business: Our main business will be election of officers for 2017. Nominations are still open, if you would like to run.

The nominating committee of Carol Jehle, Dennis Flessland, and Louise Giles reports these results so far:

New officer candidates:

Mary Morehead--secretary

Carmen Collins--cultural director

Merete Stenersen-Eelnurme--sports and recreation director

Heather Vingsness--youth director

Current officers running for re-election:

Geir Gronstad--counselor

Bob Giles--editor

Marge Sorensen--treasurer

Natalie Vaal--foundation director

Carol Jehle--membership secretary and financial secretary

Elsa Jorgensen--vice president

Louise Giles--president

Snakker du norsk?

Continue learning Norwegian at the Sons of Norway - Nordkap Lodge



4-week refresher class on Wednesdays Starting November 16 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Swedish Club Farmington Hills 22398 Ruth Street (at Freedom Road)

Price for 4-week session: \$40

To enroll, contact Louise Giles at louiseagiles@gmail.com

Payment due the 1st night of class



CHRISTMAS PARTY TO CELEBRATE JULETIDE CUSTOMS AND FUND SCHOLARSHIPS WITH SILENT AUCTION

We will be singing traditional Norwegian songs as we dance around the tree at our Nordkap Christmas party on Sunday afternoon, December 11.

This annual event at the Western Golf and Country Club is a family-friendly party frequented by the Julenisse, the Norwegian Father Christmas, himself, who comes bearing gifts for children.

We begin with a silent auction at 2 p.m., with all proceeds benefitting the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

The party's meal service begins at 3 p.m. and features a traditional Norwegian Christmas dinner of roast pork and red cabbage or a broiled whitefish entrée. Both meals come with potato, salad, vegetable, rice pudding, and coffee, tea, or iced tea. This is a great bargain at just \$28. A children's meal is also offered (**12 and under only**) consisting of chicken strips and fries, ice cream, and beverage for \$10.

Plan to arrive early at the club at 14600 Kinloch in Redford, so you will have time to view and bid on the auction items. Most have a Norwegian pedigree or theme. A few examples are the large framed photo of the Christian Radich tall ship based in Oslo and two matching adult Norwegian sweaters, made in Norway by Marius. Payment for auction items is by cash or check.



Invitations to the party are being mailed to your home with instructions where to R.S.V.P. and send payment to ensure your place at this event.

NOTE: You must respond quickly, since the ABSOLUTE deadline for reservations is Monday, November 28th. If you have questions,

please contact Louise Giles at 248-224-3369 or louiseagiles@gmail.com.

If you have items to donate to the auction, please bring them to our regular Nordkap meeting on November 20 at the Swedish Club so there will be time to include them in the sale. Items donated at the time of the auction itself may be held until next year.



SUNSHINE UPDATES

Congrats to Heather Vingsness on her engagement to longtime friend Jarrod Brown (photo above).

Also best wishes to Cathy Johnson, following knee replacement surgery several months ago, and to Bob Giles, recovering well from hip replacement surgery.

Tove Bruning is having her annual sale of original ceramics (probably her last, she says) at her unique home studio at 1908 Lloyd in Royal Oak, Thu., Nov. 17, 6-9 PM; Fri., Nov. 18, 10 AM – 8 PM; Sat., Nov. 19, 10 AM – 3 PM. Enjoy coffee & cake while you shop!

Please keep Norm Kirsch in your thoughts as he undergoes treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Please also remember Carol Jehle and Sue Schotts as they assist their mother Gladys Baldwin with recent health challenges.

2016 Officers

President: Louise Giles

Vice President: Elsa Jorgensen

Financial &

Membership Secretary:

Carol Jehle

Treasurer: Marge Sorensen

Editor: Bob Giles

Foundation Director:

Natalie Flessland Vaal

Counselor: Geir Gronstad

Contact us:

nordkap@detroitnorwegians.com

PLYMOUTH ARTIST AND “HIDDEN HEROES” OF WORLD WAR II TO BE FEATURED AT SCANDINAVIAN BAZAAR NOVEMBER 12TH

Nordic gifts and food at the Finnish Center: This year’s bazaar at the Finnish Center Association is set for Saturday, November 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Finnish Center at 35200 E. 8 Mile Rd. in Farmington Hills. There is a \$1 donation for admission.

Vendors representing Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland will provide ample opportunity for visitors to find that special holiday gift. You can stock up on Nordic foods, gifts, and crafts just as the holiday shopping season begins. Other vendors will offer hand-woven rugs, decorative arts, pottery, lavender soaps and lotions, crafts, and more.

Nordkap will be selling imported Norwegian cheese, chocolate, lefse, and herring as well as other foods and an assortment of Nordic-themed gifts, including the “Hidden Heroes” book (see below). We will also offer a delicious lunch of meatballs, potatoes, red cabbage, cucumber salad, and flatbread for \$6 and a dessert plate of Norwegian waffles, cream, and berries for \$2. If you can volunteer a few hours to help staff our tables or serve the meal, please let Carol Jehle know at jehlecarol@yahoo.com.

Artwork from the natural world: A special feature at Nordkap’s booth this year will be a selection of hand-carved wooden artwork by Plymouth artist Harald Ehrenfeld, shown on the right.

Ehrenfeld is the son of member Inger Ehrenfeld and the grandson of a master Norwegian wood carver (see the story about Nordkap’s wooden gavel elsewhere in this issue). Harald’s pieces typically evoke the natural world and the outdoors, such as his whimsical fishing lure sculptures that could have special appeal to outdoor enthusiasts.

Everyday heroes who fought the Nazis: Another special item this year will be the book, "Hidden Heroes: World War II in Norway." This volume contains 20 eyewitness accounts originally collected from Sons of Norway members by then-District 5 Cultural Director, Jean Bittner. Many Norwegians risked their lives to thwart the Nazis who were occupying their country during World War II. These are their true stories.

“Hidden Heroes” was republished by the 5th District of Sons of Norway as a fundraiser for its youth heritage camp, Masse Moro, in Wisconsin. The text is easy to read, with large "senior-friendly" font sizes, and is illustrated with over 50 pictures from the Norwegian national archives. It would make a great gift for your children and grandchildren to help them understand their heritage and the strong Norwegian character. You will enjoy having a copy for your own library.

Scandinavian entertainment: Entertainment will be provided throughout the day at the bazaar by FinnFolk, a community of musicians, centered in southeastern Michigan, who have a common interest in playing in the Finnish-American dance-hall tradition.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It was a very full month in October, and a proud one for our lodge.

Nordkap's senior members are honored once a year when Membership Secretary Carol Jehle hands out milestone pins at the Christmas party for long years of belonging to our lodge. This past month, however, brought a little out-of-the-ordinary recognition to some Nordkap seniors. They were invited to a luncheon held by Nordkap just for them. After a pleasant meal prepared by Marge Sorensen, we asked our seniors to call on their long-term memories to identify unnamed people and places in historical photographs from the Nordkap archives. Without identification, the persons and events in the photos would be forever lost from memory, and the files we want to use to preserve our history would be sadly incomplete.

Happily, our seniors came to the rescue—and seemed to enjoy the chance to catch up with old friends. We extend heartfelt thanks to Oddny Viik and daughter Eli Steyskal, Inger Plaza and her sister Ida Jaworski (daughters of the late Bjorg Rasmussen), Tove and Pres Bruning, Inger Ehrenfeld and son Harald, Thad Aardal and daughter Debbie Simms, Peggy Gjerpen and daughter Eileen Gjerpen-Shea, and Art and Sally Rubiner.



A side note on the luncheon: Some of the historical photos depicted the Scandinavian Debutante Balls formerly held in Detroit. Three of the former debutantes were reunited at our luncheon. Hats off to “debs” (left to right) Debbie Simms, Eli Steyskal, and Ida Jaworski.



An even prouder moment for a Nordkap senior came at our regular Nordkap meeting in October where Peggy Gjerpen received honors from the governments of the United States and Norway in recognition of her husband Kaare's service in the Merchant Marine during World War II.



Dennis Flessland, the honorary Norwegian Consul from Norway to Michigan, presented letters and special medals to Peggy, recognizing the important role of Kaare and the Merchant Marine in supporting the war effort and defeating the Nazis. Sharing with Peggy in these honors were her daughters Eileen Gjerpen-Shea and Ann Gosney, son Paul, and his wife, Sherry.

The main event at that October meeting was the visit of Sons of Norway 5th District President Andy Johnsen. (See his remarks on the next page.) Andy played Scandinavian tunes on his accordion and showed us the traveling Viking Chest with artifacts from other lodges.

Lt. to rt: Paul Gjerpen, Peggy, Gjerpen, and Dennis Flessland

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As our “rent” for viewing the chest, Nordkap contributed its own special object--a supersized hand-wrought nail from the replica Viking ship Draken Harald Hårfagre. The ship’s crew gave the nail to Nordkap Counselor Geir Gronstad for this purpose during its visit to Detroit. Geir presented the nail to Andy and spoke about how he and Dennis Flessland helped bring the ship to Detroit. See Geir’s presentation on our website, www.DetroitNorwegians.com.



Med vennlig hilsen (With best regards),
Louise Giles



IMPORTANT WORDS FROM 5TH DISTRICT PRESIDENT ANDY JOHNSEN

When our Sons of Norway 5th District President Andy Johnsen spoke to our lodge last month, he offered important advice on how you could “Be All You Can Be as a Lodge.”

With Andy’s permission, we are printing his entire message below and encourage you to read it, give it some thought, and help us fulfill Andy’s vision for Nordkap:

“Increasing the number of members in a Sons of Norway lodge should be considered the end result of a process. That process is a lodge being all that it can be. In order to attract new members we must be more as Sons of Norway lodges. Does your lodge or the lodges in your zone do the same things year in and year out? Some lodges in our district are very good at trying new things and engaging with their communities. Many lodges are in communities where most of the people in the community do not know they have a Sons of Norway lodge in their area!

“Things a lodge can do to be more:

- When you have a good program, invite the community to attend.
- Place a meeting notice in the local newspaper.
- Place your meeting notice on a group Face Book page.
- Do new things at your lodge (cultural skills, sports).
- Attend local community events and participate in these events.
- Engage the youth members of the lodge in lodge events.
- Have members attend Chamber of Commerce meetings.
- Start a lodge scholarship.
- Hold a lodge fund-raising event (in your lodge or at an event outside the lodge).
- If your lodge has one fund-raising event per year, consider having two fund-raisers per year.

“Try to view your lodge as a product that you are trying to sell to a prospective member and to your own members. Think of ways to enhance the value of your lodge. By being more as a lodge, you can offer more to your own members and to prospective members.”

--Andy Johnsen

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO SONS OF NORWAY SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

The Sons of Norway Foundation in Minneapolis awards approximately 25 scholarships to promising students each year. These programs promote cultural exchange and support higher education to help students follow their dreams.

Corrie Maki-Knudson, Sons of Norway Foundation Director, has adjusted deadlines for 2017 scholarships available through the Foundation. Please check the website <https://www.sofn.com> under the tab "Foundation" for details on these Sons of Norway scholarships:

- 1) King Olav V Scholarship**-open to members over age 18 who wish to explore Norwegian heritage, culture, or modern Norway at a university. Awards vary. DEADLINE: January 2, 2017
- 2) Astrid G. Cates/Myrtle Beinhauer Fund**-Awards \$1,000.00 for college study in any discipline at a U.S. college or university. DEADLINE: March 1, 2017
- 3) Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarship**-open to women only wishing to pursue a degree in physics, chemistry, or engineering: chemical, electrical, or mechanical. Applicants must be between the ages of 17-35, and other prerequisites apply. Awards vary. DEADLINE: March 1, 2017
- 4) Oslo Summer School**-2 Awards of \$1,500.00 each. DEADLINE January 2, 2017
- 5) Helen Tronvold Norwegian Folk High School**-scholarships to attend Norwegian Folk High school in Norway. DEADLINE: January 2, 2017
- 6) Lund Fun**-a \$1500.00 award for Americans studying abroad. DEADLINE: January 2, 2017
- 7) Warne-Eng Scholarship**-creates an opportunity for qualified applicants to attend educational institutions in Norway and assists with major costs of tuition, room, and board. See further prerequisites and details. DEADLINE: January 2, 2017

*For more information, contact Foundation Director Corrie Maki-Knudson at 612-821-4632.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM ONE OF NORDKAP'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Dear Sons of Norway Scholarship Committee,

I can't thank you all enough for the scholarship you have given me. I am honored to be a part of the Nordkap lodge, and to honor my grandfather and his family by celebrating his heritage. This scholarship has been vital to my college career, without it I wouldn't be where I am today. I am currently double majoring in Environmental Science and Sustainability and English at Western Michigan University, and I am enjoying every second of it.

During my first semester here at WMU, I have also pledged to a fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta. This has given me a wide range of opportunities to get involved with the community, my school, and to further grow myself into an elite member of society. I am in a higher place now than I was before I came to WMU and I could not have done it without this scholarship. Thank you all so very much, and I hope to see you all again real soon.

Sincerely,

Jeffery Lee Stinson



NORDKAP'S 'TROLL' GAVEL HAS QUITE A HISTORY

Longtime Nordkap member Inger Ehrenfeld (shown on the left) examines Nordkap's "troll" gavel, carved and signed by her Norwegian father, Ragnar Holt, in 1994.

During World War II, Inger's father was one of those "Hidden Heroes" who worked quietly to help defeat the Nazis and win the war. Holt worked at the "heavy water" factory in Rjukan, Norway, in Telemark and was part of the underground operation to deny the Germans access to the factory's water which they could have used to make atomic bombs. Soon after, he had to escape to Sweden to avoid capture and almost certain death at the hands of the Nazis.

In peacetime, Holt was a woodcarver by hobby. His daughter Inger had married, moved to America, and joined Nordkap Lodge when Holt visited her in 1994. He realized that Nordkap needed a gavel, so he carved one in the shape of a troll's head, probably to lend a bit of extra authority to the presidents who would wield it. The next time you attend a lodge meeting, ask to examine our unique gavel--and ask Inger Ehrenfeld about her dad's fascinating history.

WOW! A DECEMBER LUTEFISK LUNCHEON:

ASK BOB ANYTHING!

(An occasional Nordkapen feature in which YOU can ask the Editor ANYTHING!)

Q: Hey Bob, I'm a fairly intelligent guy who enjoys getting with other guys this time of the year to enjoy a meal of lutefisk and aquavit. Can you recommend any upcoming events to help me? --*Desperate for Lutefisk*

A: Dear Desperate: The Nordic fellows is an all-male Scandinavian social club that meets once a year without an agenda, financial report, or committees, with the sole mission of continuing a long-standing tradition of consuming a portion of lutefisk during the holiday season. You and your like-minded male friends are invited to join them on Saturday, December 17, at 11:30am for a fun-filled lunch of cod, meatballs, redskin potatoes and other veggies and a special aquavit tasting and toast. All are invited to sing a traditional Swedish drinking song and bring their favorite 2016 joke to share. Contact Dennis Flessland at 248-547-6379 for tickets. (Note, this fun event is not sponsored by Nordkap lodge.)



OUR READERS ARE WINNERS!

Your editor likes to have fun and this year instituted a contest based on information included in issues of Nordkapen. It's usually a four-question quiz asking about details included in the various articles. It encourages members to both read the newsletter and attend our meetings.

Last month we had a great response to the quiz, and the three winners who qualified by being the first to enter with correct answers and to attend the meeting were:

- Adrienne Shepard and Heather Vingsness who each won a box of Ole and Lena Fortune Cookies
- Natalie Vaal who won a Sons of Norway tote bag with a handy banana slicer and a corkscrew.



Editor Bob Giles awards contest prize to Heather Vingsness.

Be on the lookout for the next Nordkapen Quiz. You may be the next winner!

NORDKAP LODGE 5-378

c/o Bob Giles

Box 1198

Royal Oak, MI 48068