



# Nordkapen

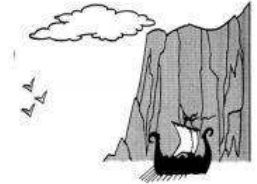
**Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway**

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>



June-July-August 2017

Volume 87 Issue 4

## NORDKAP CALENDAR

**June 23 – Midsummer celebration, 6 p.m. at Farmington Hills Heritage Park**

**September 10 – Steak and Corn Roast, 1 p.m. at the Swedish Club**

**October 22 – Lodge meeting, 4 p.m. at the Swedish Club**

**November 11 – Scandinavian Market, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Finnish Center**

**November 19 -- Lodge meeting, 4 p.m. at the Swedish Club**

**December 10 – Christmas Party, 2 p.m., Western Golf & Country Club**

### 2017 Officers

**President:** Louise Giles

**Vice President:** Mark Eelnurme

**Treasurer:** Marge Sorensen

**Secretary:** Mary Morehead

**Financial &**

**Membership Secretary:**

Carol Jehle

**Editor:** Bob Giles

**Foundation & Scholarship**

**Director:**

Natalie Flessland Vaal

**Cultural Director:**

Carmen Collins

**Youth Director:**

Heather Vingsness

**Sports & Recreation Director:**

Merete Stenersen

**Counselor:** Geir Gronstad

**Contact us:**

[Nordkap@detroitnorwegians.com](mailto:Nordkap@detroitnorwegians.com)

**Photos by Bob Giles, unless otherwise indicated.**

## **JUNE 23 MIDSUMMER FEST AT HERITAGE PARK**

Nordkap Lodge will mark the beginning of summer with a festive Midsummer celebration beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, June 23, at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. All members and guests are cordially invited to attend this traditional Norwegian event.

Midsummer Eve, called Sankthansaften or St. John's Eve in Norway, celebrates the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, the summer solstice. The day has particular importance in Scandinavian countries, which endure long dark days of winter, with the sun barely rising above the horizon in their northernmost regions.

Holding to ancient Norsk traditions, our Nordkap celebration invites you to:

- Take a "Viking Walk" through the wooded hills of the park at 6 p.m.
- Roast hot dogs over our bonfire in the fire pit at 6:30.
- Burn a large twig-and-straw witch after dinner to fend off bad memories from the previous year and clear the way for good fortune.

Nordkap Youth Director Heather Vingsness has created a modern-day activity—a photographic treasure hunt—to end our festivities. Heather will form groups into teams to identify and photograph Nordic features around the park. The team with the most and best results will win—and there will be prizes.

You will find us at Heritage Park at 24915 Farmington Road just south of 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. Meet at the Campfire Ring in front of the Nature Center. Members are asked to bring side dishes or desserts to share and lawn chairs. This celebration replaces our regular June meeting.



## SUNSHINE UPDATES

It was good to see Norm and Judy Kirsch looking good at our Constitution Day celebration after Norm's long absence for medical treatments.

Best wishes for good health to:

- Merete Stenersen, following spinal fusion surgery
- Thad Aardal, soon to be discharged from hospital following heart-valve replacement surgery and fluid build-up in his lungs
- Sheryl Dalton, in therapy as her broken foot heals
- Linda Flessland Stinson, dealing with a broken knee cap
- Karen Arneson, feeling unwell

Former member Ondrianna Tatavian, who several years ago attended our Norwegian language class in preparation for becoming a foreign exchange student in Norway, has married and moved to North Carolina.



### GRATULERER MED DAGEN! June Birthdays:

David Ray Bryhn, Sheryl Dalton, Ernest Halvorson, Jeff Hatteberg, Maureen Hatteberg, Adrienne Shepard, Samuel Trupiano, Edward Vingsness

### July Birthdays:

Monica Dowhan, Arnold Hagen, Wendy Marko, Mary Morehead, Ana Gjesdal Skidmore, Jeannine Sturgeon

### August Birthdays:

Derrick Aardal, Louis Amundsen, Karin Arneson, Emil Berentsen, Tove Bruning, Alexa Francis, Peggy Gjerpen, Geir Gronstad, Øystein Gjertsen Hekneby, Lynn Herche, Richard Hole, Marina Kozlova, Georgia Roed, Margaret Sorensen

## MISUMMER INVITATION FROM THE FINNS & FINN CAMP

*Amber Martin, treasurer of the Detroit Finnish Cooperative Summer Camp Association or Finn Camp, issued the following invitation:*

I would like to formally invite you all to join us to celebrate Juhannus - the summer solstice - on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, at our location at 2524 Loon Lake Rd. in Wixom, MI. [Important: Note the new date—not June 24, as previously reported.]

Throughout the day we will have a horseshoe tournament, boot toss competition, cornhole, Molky (a Finnish game), and other outdoor games to play. There will be Finnish



*Finn Camp Diving Tower (Finn Camp Photo)*

dancing, food, and raffle prizes. The

kitchen will be open from 3 p.m.-9 p.m. The kokko (bonfire) will be lit at 10 p.m. This is a family-friendly event. Cost is \$5 per person, which includes an entry for a chance to win one of our door prizes.

## NORDKAP SEES DETROIT TIGERS BEAT CHICAGO 7 - 4

On June 4, 28 Nordkap members & guests took part in our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual baseball outing, and our Tigers won again for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. Weather: perfect!





### **NORWEGIAN CLASSES END -- LOOK FOR UPDATES IN THE FALL**

Nordkap's four years of Norwegian language classes at the Swedish Club ended on a high note May 31, as the class bade farewell to beloved teacher Adrienne Shepard with a going-away reception. Adrienne is moving with husband Reid and kids, Teddy and Clara, to Portland, Oregon, where Reid will begin his medical practice. Once settled in her new home, Adrienne plans to work with Nordkap to develop a new series of Norwegian lessons to be transmitted to a classroom over the Internet. Stay tuned for details yet to come.

Meanwhile, it seemed our class couldn't get enough of Adrienne, so we managed to capture her twice in this shot of the final lesson. That's Adrienne, in black, standing on the left—and the right. *(Photo by Bob Giles--also a student, but not in this shot.)*

### **NORDKAP MEMBERS' ROBOTICS TEAMS COMPETE AT STATE LEVEL**

**NOTE: Kudos to Nordkap members Heather Vingsness and Sven Hahr, who cheered their school robotics teams at Michigan's state tournament! Here is Coach Heather's account of the experience:**

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a worldwide Robotics program that facilitates competitors at all grade levels. Each team gets 6 weeks to design and construct a robot to complete a certain challenge.



*The Shambots robotics team  
(Heather Vingsness photo)*

These robots are generally 120lbs, 2-3ft tall, and cost about \$8,000. Adult mentors with expertise in engineering, computer programming, welding, or business (and others who are just excited about robots) help students learn vital STEM skills (skills in science, technology, engineering, and math) and teach them their trade. Businesses sponsor teams and support their activities through company tours, internships, and mentoring. It truly "takes a village" to build a robot.

There are 450+ high school teams in Michigan, and fewer than half of them advance from the district level to the state championship tournament. This year, two Nordkap members' teams met head-to-head at the State Championship. Heather Vingsness (coach of the Catholic Central Shambots) and Sven Hahr (parent of a team member of the Greenhill Lawnmowers) met on the field of play for some friendly competition. Although neither team won the State Championship, both are excited to compete again next year. For those interested in checking out a tournament, Detroit is hosting the World Championship in April 2018!

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It seemed like all the stars were perfectly aligned on May 13th, when Nordkap threw open the doors at the Swedish Club for a full-blown celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day.

The weather was perfect. The clubhouse with its newly painted deck and freshly mown lawns looked beautiful. Colorful bunads were abundant. We were even visited by two vintage “Russ” celebrants, remembering glories of past high school graduations. The Scandinavian-American musicians were in fine tune, heading up the parade with three very smart-looking flag bearers. The parade route was dry. The hot dogs in buns or lefse were roasted to perfection. The table of Norwegian desserts was filled to overflowing. Our volunteers were also abundant and helpful. The games were masterfully choreographed for children and adults—including the infamous Cod Toss. Our Norwegian consul led us in singing happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday to King Harald and Queen Sonja while shooting video for Facebook. And the newspaper ads we purchased, with the help of a Sons of Norway grant, successfully brought in about 20-25 new people—not to mention the hundreds of others who saw the ads, now know about us, and may contact us later. Total attendance for the day was estimated around 100.

A great team effort! Many thanks to all, especially Carol Jehle, our chief organizer, and Swedish Club President Dan Nelson.

This event followed another fun gathering in April at the Swedish Club, where we enjoyed a tasty Norwegian meal of Fiskekrateng (fish and macaroni in white sauce) prepared by Dennis Flessland. Afterwards we heard informative talks about two Norwegian practices: “Friluftsliv,” or outdoor recreation, presented by Mark Eelnurme, and “Russefeiring,” the traditional celebration for graduating Norwegian high school students, presented by Mary Morehead. Both talks are posted on our website, [DetroitNorwegians.com](http://DetroitNorwegians.com).

The year is nearly half-way over, but there’s still plenty to look forward to:

- Our festive family Midsummer celebration will take place on June 23. (See page 1.)
- Scholarship applications are due June 30, and we anticipate making cash awards to several deserving students.
- The Scandinavian clubs together will be sponsoring a booth at the annual Scottish Highland Games presented by the St. Andrew’s Society of Detroit at Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia on August 5. We are looking for volunteers to help staff this booth and spread the word about our wonderful lodge. While there, volunteers can experience the exciting Highland Games with bagpipes, Highland dancers, athletic competitions, Scottish food and vendors, and games for the children. To volunteer, please contact me at 248-224-3369.

Med vennlig hilsen (with best regards) -- Louise Giles



### **Constitution Day Photo Highlights:**

***Pictured, left to right: 1) The Myklebust family from Ann Arbor; 2) “Russ” celebrants Carmen Collins and Mary Morehead; and 3) Kirsten Suer and baby Mabel from Ferndale—our first-ever mother-baby combo cod-tossers.***

## **FROM THE ARCHIVES: Second in a Series by Geir Gronstad**

**This article is from *Norse Civic News*, June 1972**

### ***THE 17de MAI FEST***

*The 17<sup>th</sup> of May dinner dance was well attended. Before the dinner, President Per Hansen bid everyone welcome and everyone sang the American and Norwegian National Anthems.*

*Following a delicious pork roast dinner, Per Hansen introduced the Norwegian Consul for the State of Michigan Mr. Henry Caswell. The Consul brought greetings from the Norwegian government and King Olav and told of the fact that Norwegians throughout the world would be celebrating the day.*

*The Arpi Swedish Male Chorus sang several songs under the direction of Mr. Herman Warne with Lillian Lagerkvist at the piano. They received generous applause.*

*Per Hansen introduced six students from Norway who are studying at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and the evening was concluded with dancing to Pete Bengtsson's band until 1:00 a.m. Adding Norwegian music with the orchestra were Per Hansen and Oscar Lund on the trombone. Mr. Lund, along with his wife Ruth, are two of the students attending the University of Michigan.*

### **Excerpts from the article “Norwegian Emigrants in Michigan”, by Hilmer Gellein, in *Norse Civic News*, March 1968**

*About ten years before the Civil War, iron ore was discovered in Marquette County. After the war, there was a great need for men to work in the mines of Ishpeming, and the early arrivals sent money for relatives living in Leinstrand, just a few miles south of Trondheim, for their passage to this country. Beginning with 1867, those leaving Leinstrand gave their destination as Chicago, Sioux City, Iowa, and Eau Claire, Wisconsin. From Chicago, they went to Marquette or Ishpeming. After 1870 and until 1885, almost all of them gave their destination as Ishpeming.*



**Section 16 Mine, Ishpeming. (Source: [www.miningartifacts.org](http://www.miningartifacts.org))**

*From 1870 until 1890, the Norwegian population in Ishpeming grew at a rapid rate. Nearly every family had boarders or roomers. Ishpeming had a population of 18,000 in 1900 and had the largest Norwegian settlement of any city in Michigan, and percentage wise had the largest settlement of any city in the country outside of Eau Claire, Wisconsin.*

*Most of the immigrants worked in the mines or as carpenters and lumber jacks. Trestles for stocking ore had to be erected. The names of some of the master carpenters were Paulsmoe, Fandrem and Ry. Many carpenters were employed by those men.*

*After 1900, many Norwegians left Ishpeming, some going to Skandia (Marquette County) for farming, others joining in the gold rush in Alaska. Many left for the Copper Country (U.P.) and others going to Baraga, Pequaming and L'Anse to work in the lumber mills. As the automotive industry was starting to flourish after 1905, many Norwegians found their way to the larger cities in Southern Michigan.*

## CONNECT TO YOUR NORDIC HERITAGE WITH THESE PROGRAMS

Looking for a better way to connect with your Norwegian heritage? The International Sons of Norway may have just the right resources to help you do so. The Sons of Norway offers two special programs open exclusively to Sons of Norway members: the Sports Medal Program and Cultural Skills Program. These were featured in a talk presented by Nordkap Vice President Mark Eelnurme at our April meeting at the Swedish Club.

The first—the Sons of Norway Sports Medal Program—is a fun and engaging way to stay active while enjoying the Norwegian tradition of *friluftsliv* (*outdoor life and recreation*). It's uniquely designed to reward healthy habits at every age, activity level, and exercise preference—and can award you handsome medals.

This sports program is very simple: Choose the area you want to focus on—general fitness, skiing, swimming, biking, or walking. You start on your program by downloading tracking cards, levels, and requirements from the Sons of Norway website.

Then: 1) Choose your goal within the program. 2) Work towards pre-determined requirements to earn your way to a sports medal, earning each level in sequence. 3) When your record card is complete, submit it to your lodge's Sports Director, who will order your pins and present them to you.

The second program—Cultural Skills—offers a systematic way to learn traditional and contemporary Norwegian cultural skills, such as rosemaling, cooking, folk dancing, woodcarving, reading Norwegian literature, and more.

Downloadable portable document files (pdfs) on the Sons of Norway website provide an easy framework for even the casual learner to become knowledgeable and proficient in these arts and crafts of Norway. And, again, there are rewards—handsome medals—to be earned as you progress through the system.



*Merete Stenersen practices friluftsliv with her father Bjørn climbing mountains in Norway. (Photo from Merete Stenersen)*



**Rosemaling – included in Cultural Skills**

The cultural skills offered include: #1 Traditional Norwegian Cooking #2 Reading Norwegian and Norwegian-American Authors #3 Collecting Norwegian and North American Stamps #4 Rosemaling #5 Genealogy--Family History #6 Hand Knitting #7 Norwegian Language and Culture #8 Hardanger Embroidery #9 Figure Carving #10 Weaving #11 Ornamental Woodcarving #12 Chip Carving #13 Folk Dancing #14 Music and Musicians of Norway.

Both programs are accessible through the Sons of Norway website at [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com). Follow these steps: On the home page, click on “Log In” on the upper right tool bar. When the welcome page comes up,

enter your User Name and Password and click “Log in.” (If you’re a first-time user, click “First-time Portal User” at the bottom of the page and fill in the information on the next page to activate your membership account.) After you log in, the Member Profile page will come up. Scroll down the left margin and click on “Cultural Programming.” On the Cultural Programming page, scroll down the left margin and click on either “Cultural Skills Program” or, further down the page, “Sports Medal Program.”

## **NORDKAP FILES FIND A HOME IN ANN ARBOR**

Nordkap took a giant step forward last month as the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor agreed to accept and digitize the historical records of our lodge.

Bob and Louise Giles turned over the first batch of records at their home on May 30<sup>th</sup> to Mike Smith, the library's principal archivist. That first group of records--in two very full milk crates--included minutes of lodge and Board meetings dating back to the 1970s, vintage and current Nordkapen newsletters, newspaper clippings with stories and photos about our lodge, general correspondence, and other historical documents. Mr. Smith estimated the contents of the milk crates at two linear feet of library shelves.

Terms agreed to by both parties provide that the Nordkap collection will grow over time, as more items are systematically turned over to the library, either in paper or digitized form.

Finding a proper home for our records has been a long-time goal of the lodge. Over the years, with no physical building to call our own, Nordkap has had to ask its officers and members to store documents in their homes. The concern has always been that the documents could be misplaced, lost, forgotten, or damaged—especially when items had to be housed in a member's basement.

In fact, in the 1970s, some of the lodge's earliest records were lost when one officer moved out of state and made no provision to pass off her files to other officers. All attempts to reclaim those files—some dating back to our lodge's founding in 1929--were of no avail.

The new agreement with the Bentley library specifies that Nordkap may access the Nordkap collection there at any time during the library's open hours and may use any materials in the collection for business purposes. The files will also be open to researchers who meet requirements set by the library.

Over time, the library will organize and digitize Nordkap's files. By our agreement, items then not retained by the library shall be returned to Nordkap. Find the library at 1150 Beal Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113 or Bentley.umich.edu.

## **PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM April 23 NORDKAP MEETING**



*Michael Smith from the Bentley Library accepts files from Louise Giles.*



*Pictured left to right: 1) Dennis Flessland serves a delicious Fiskegrateng dish; 2) Karen Herche displays the Easter Bunny napkins; 3) Mark Eelnurme explains why the outdoor lifestyle or "friluftsliv" is so important in Norway.*

## LOOKING FOR A GOOD SCANDINAVIAN RESTAURANT?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a Scandinavian restaurant in Detroit? There used to be such places here in days gone by, but none anymore—at least none that we know of. But should you be traveling to New York City, consider making reservations at a really good, moderately priced restaurant there. It's part of the Scandinavia House, billed as “the Nordic Center in America--home of the Scandinavian American Foundation.”



*Smörgås Chef restaurant in New York*

The restaurant is Smörgås Chef, an airy, vibrant space featuring soaring ceilings, a massive birch tree installation in the dining room, and an open kitchen across from the full bar that allows guests a view of busy chefs preparing dishes in the New Nordic Cuisine. They serve Scandinavian sandwiches, salads, appetizers, entrées, and pastries and offer lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch, with special prix fixe menus available.

Louise and Bob Giles enjoyed such dishes as pan-seared salmon and a classic smorgasbord tasting plate with gravlaks, spiced herring, Swedish meatballs, Jansson's Temptation, dill cucumbers, and apple-beet salad. Besides serving absolutely delicious meals, Smörgås Chef offers two very popular programs: “Dinner & a Movie” (\$33) and “Dinner & a Concert” (\$41). These pair top-notch Scandinavian cinema and music with prix-fixe two-course Nordic dinner menus. Available from 5 to 9 p.m. on specified nights, the special dinners feature such dishes as herb-roasted chicken, cured gravlaks, and Swedish meatballs and include one admission to that evening's film or concert. Smörgås Chef is located at 58 Park Avenue. Contact 212-686-4230 or see [smorgas.com](http://smorgas.com).

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## NORDKAP LODGE 5-378

c/o Bob Giles

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