



# Nordkapen

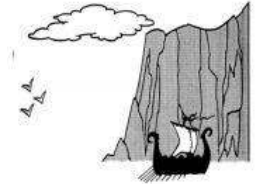
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

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>



September 2018

Volume 88 Issue 5

## NORDKAP CALENDAR

**September 9 – Steak & Corn Roast, 1 p.m., the Swedish Club**

**September 22 – Movie Night, 7 p.m., the Swedish Club**

**October 28 – Lodge meeting, 4 p.m., the Swedish Club**

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

**November 18 – Lodge meeting, 4 p.m., the Swedish Club**

**December 9 – Christmas Party and Silent Auction, Fox Hills**

## 2018 Officers

### **Co-Presidents:**

Louise Giles & Haley Vingsness

**Vice President:** Mark Eelnurme

**Treasurer:** Carmen Collins

**Secretary:** Mary Morehead

**Financial &**

**Membership Secretary:**

Carol Jehle

**Scholarship Director & Store Director:**

Natalie Flessland Vaal

**Cultural Director & Sports & Recreation Director:**

Merete Stenersen

**Youth Director:**

Heather Vingsness

**Foundation Director:**

Derrick Hendricks

**Greeters:**

Connie Hart & Cathy Johnson

**Historian:** Geir Gronstad

**Publicity Director:**

Louise Giles

**Editor & Counselor:** Bob Giles

**Contact us:**

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

Photos by Bob Giles, unless otherwise indicated

## **Steak and Corn Roast September 9th**

Nordkap hosts its annual steak and corn roast as part of the Swedish Club's monthly brunch program.

Nordkap volunteers report at 9:30 a.m. at the Swedish Club 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills

Dinner served at 1 p.m.—\$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children

**This team-building endeavor is fun!** See photos from last year's event, below. Let "Grillmaster" Bob Giles know if you can help at 248-302-2222 or [bobgiles@newcarnews.tv](mailto:bobgiles@newcarnews.tv)



**Geir Gronstad and Harald Ehrenfeld serve steaks.**



**Mark Eelnurme and Dennis Flessland preside at the grill.**

## SUNSHINE UPDATES



**Olivia Vaal** proudly holds her new baby brother **Lewis Michael Vaal** born August 16 to parents **Natalie & Andy Vaal**. Congratulations to them and to grandparents **Dennis & Jan Flessland**. --Vaal family photo



Nordkap's 2018 Chili Cook-off winner **Bob Giles** has received the certificate and blue ribbon promised by the Fifth District of the Sons of Norway, which initiated the tournament for participating lodges.



**GRATULERER MED DAGEN!**

### September Birthdays:

Janice Capler, Marsha Gilman, Connie Hart, Anne Kristine Kilen, Karen Schmidt, Eli Anita Steyskal, Haley Vingsness, Heather Vingsness, Paul Wiekierak

## ***“Halloweigan” Party Planned for October***

**Save the date of October 28** for a Lodge event that promises freakish fun for the entire family. In deference to the ensuing holiday, our regular lodge meeting will be transformed into a Norwegian Hallowe'en--or “Halloweigan”--party.

**Details are still being developed**, but plan on coming in your Halloween costume and enjoying pizza, Halloween candy, and games. And bring kids and grandkids!

## ***Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party Moved to New Location***

**Our gala Christmas party and silent auction** will take place as usual this year, but in a different and exciting location.

**Following the devastating fire** that destroyed the Western Golf and Country Club this spring, we knew we had to move quickly to secure a new venue, since clubs typically book December events many months in advance. The Western clubhouse had provided a beautiful, affordable setting for us for many years, and we wanted a place equally appealing to our members.

**A Nordkap committee, appointed by our Board, selected Fox Hills**, an upscale golf and event destination. The date for the party was set for Sunday afternoon, December 9.

Today a family-owned facility, Fox Hills had its beginnings in 1927 as a private country club. It has been beautifully renovated and expanded. The original log cabin clubhouse is still preserved today at the Fox Classic clubhouse, where our party will be staged.

The facility at 8768 North Territorial Road, Plymouth Township, is easily accessible by major surface roads and area freeways. More details will be coming in later editions of this newsletter.



***Fox Classic (Fox Hills photo)***

**Thanks to Connie Hart, Haley Vingsness, Mary Morehead, Carol Jehle, and Bob and Louise Giles** for their work on the committee.

## ***An Appreciation of Marge Sorensen, Stepping Down as Treasurer***

**We often heard that no one is irreplaceable.** Yet that's often how I've thought about Marge Sorensen, who's stepping down after some 20 years as Nordkap treasurer.

I know Marge personally as a friend and great resource for our lodge, always cheerful, upbeat, fun-to-be-with, and ready to lend a hand.

But as treasurer, Marge has endlessly paid our bills, balanced books, prepared reports, filed required forms, counted receipts, reimbursed expenses, and researched complex financial questions, often working well into the night to keep Nordkap's finances up to date.

**She did all this while also volunteering** like other lodge members to cook, serve, and help clean up at many lodge events, like the Steak and Corn roast, Scandinavian Market, Midsummer Celebration, 17<sup>th</sup> of May, and regular monthly meetings.

Beyond that, she's served in years past as editor of our newsletter and a Nordkap delegate to the 5<sup>th</sup> District Sons of Norway convention; shopped for food for lodge events and stored it in her freezer; single-handedly prepared and served a special luncheon for Nordkap's more senior members; and attended and hosted countless Board meetings at her home.

**Marge handled all her Nordkap duties with the same professional demeanor** she showed in her business career, first as a salaried employee at Ford Motor Company, then as a travel agent, when she guided clients to dream vacations around the world. Marge was always the person you wanted to tell you where to go!

She's a great traveler herself—exploring far afield, often with family members, to places like China, Budapest, and Russia, to name but a few. With her late husband Pete, she was a member of the Players Guild of Dearborn, where she handled costumes for the amateur thespians.

Besides Nordkap, Marge's been an active member of the Finnish Center Association, the Swedish Club, the Jenny Lind Club, and Scandia, the Swedish women's chorus. She's a mother and a grandmother. And she's proven many times over the truth of the old saying, "If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it."

**We asked a lot of Marge, and she always delivered.** We are fortunate that she plans to stay active in our lodge. And we are equally fortunate in the talented person our Board has chosen to become our new treasurer: Carmen Collins.



***Marge Sorensen (left) with editor Bob Giles and Carmen Collins, who succeeds Marge***

***-- Louise Giles***

## ***Carmen Collins Succeeds Marge Sorensen as Treasurer***

**The Nordkap Board was pleased to elect Carmen Collins** as lodge treasurer at its June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Carmen has been working closely with retiring treasurer Marge Sorensen for the past year to learn how the lodge accounts are kept and what the treasurer's position requires.

**Carmen has been a member of Nordkap and a student** in our Norwegian language class for more than two years. In 2017, she served as Nordkap's Cultural Director.

**Carmen grew up in Ferndale** and is married with two step-sons and three granddaughters. She graduated from Wayne State University with a degree in Medical Technology and has worked at three Detroit area hospitals, retiring from William Beaumont Hospital three years ago. Her specialty was microbiology, and she ended her career as a supervisor at Beaumont Hospital.

**She enjoys gardening, travel, and genealogy** and serves as a docent volunteer at the Detroit Zoo. She credits her longtime friendship with the Oslo exchange student she met in high school for her continuing love for Norway.

"We will miss Marge as treasurer, but look forward to having Carmen as the new treasurer," said Co-President Louise Giles. "Carmen's intelligence, sunny disposition, and seemingly boundless energy should prove to be a great asset to our Board and our members."

## ***Nordkap wins Family Lodge of the Year***

A highlight for Nordkap delegates attending the Sons of Norway Fifth District convention in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in June of this year was the announcement that Nordkap Lodge took top honors as the District's Family Lodge of the Year for 2017.

The award was announced at the District's formal banquet at the Radisson Hotel, capping four days of activities for delegates from lodges in the central United States.

Nordkap Vice President Mark Eelnurme, seen at the right, accepted the award, which honors the lodge with the best activities aimed at families and young people.



**Mark Eelnurme**  
*(Merete Stenersen photo)*

## ***Detroit Symphony to Present Grieg's Concerto for Piano***

**If you love the music of Edvard Grieg**, you'll want to know about a Detroit Symphony concert where Grieg's concerto for piano will be played. The concert will feature Icelandic keyboard master Vikingur Ólafsson and include two pieces by Jean Sibelius.

**If you want to go**, we suggest you purchase tickets for the Saturday, October 27, concert that other lodge members plan to attend. That performance is 8 p.m. at Detroit's Orchestra Hall. Get tickets from the DSO online at [dso.org](http://dso.org) or by phone at 313-576-5111.



Bob Giles Photo

*Ready to try their hands at tossing cod are, from left, Erik Duus, Mark Eelnurme, and Geir Gronstad.*

***Our Moveable Midsummer Celebration—yes, with Flying Fish!***

**The fish did fly again this year for our Nordkap “Vikings”**—in spite of inclement weather that threatened once again to shut out this important tradition for our lodge.

In a normal year, the fish “fly” in our infamous “Cod Toss” during the celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day. But this year, the skies opened up on that day, creating a virtual fjord behind the Swedish Club and drowning out any chance of outdoor activities.

So the Cod Toss— our contest of throwing frozen fish for distance—was rescheduled for midsummer’s eve on June 23. That’s when we typically gather at the Farmington Hills’ Heritage Park and celebrate the return of the summer sun by roasting hot dogs and burning a paper witch for good luck.

**But once again a heavy downpour and threats of thunderstorms** changed our plans. We moved the celebration indoors to the Swedish Club. There, hot dogs, picnic foods and desserts were served, and Nordkap member Carmen Collins related the story of midsummer and how the Old Norse honored the sun with ceremonies at summer solstice.

A break in the weather allowed the celebrants to go outside to burn a paper witch (made by Heather Vingsness), toast s’mores, and finally make the fish fly, as contestants tried out their best throwing arms.

*(Continued next page)*



**Heather Vingsness**



**Kate Zawicki tosses witch**

*(Midsummer Event, continued from previous page)*

The winners in five categories of the Cod Toss each won a prize with a fishy theme:

- Young girls: **Annika Eelnurme**—a fish-shaped watering can
- Teenaged girls: **Sonja Gronstad**—a glass fish figurine
- Teenaged boys: **Kevin Duffy**—a painted folk-art string of fish
- Adult women: **Lolly Duus**—a “Bunch-o-Trout” party lights
- Adult men: **Mike Jehle**—a large ornamental fish model



**Cod Toss winners (from left): Annika Eelnurme, Sonja Gronstad, Lolly Duus, Kevin Duffy, and Mike Jehle**  
Mike Jehle, who had the longest throw of all contestants at 96 feet, also took home the rotating “Oh My Cod” plaque, which will be passed on to the winner of next year’s Cod Toss.

*Amelia Roth readies her toss.*



**Winner Mike Jehle (left) with Bob Giles**

## ***Gone Fishing: Nordkap's Fish-Head Supplier Closes***

**Yet another mishap befell Nordkap Lodge** this summer with the unexpected announcement that the supplier of fish heads for our infamous Cod Toss was closing up shop.

Superior Fish announced in mid-June that it was going out of business after 75 years. The property, which occupied a prime downtown corner in Royal Oak, was sold to Royal Oak-based Versa Real Estate for \$2.65 million. Versa plans to market the property for lease as office or retail space, counting on-site parking of about 40 spaces as a bonus.

**Superior Fish was famous as the supplier of octopus** for zealous fans to throw on the ice at Red Wings hockey games, a longtime tradition during the playoffs. But to us, the family-owned business was famously the source of fish heads, which we also throw—in a field, not on the ice. Superior has graciously donated the fish heads over the years to Bob Giles, creator of Nordkap's Cod Toss.

**The store's closing follows other events that adversely impacted Nordkap in 2018.** The Rouge River flood and drenching rain at the Swedish Club caused us to move our Constitution Day celebration inside. Another downpour dampened our outdoor Midsummer celebration, moving us from Heritage Park to the Swedish Club. And the fire that destroyed the Western Golf and Country Club, the site of our Christmas parties, caused us to seek another location.

**What can you do? Go fish.**

*Superior Fish (below) is closed. Bob Giles (right) thanks co-owner Kevin Dean for supporting Nordkap's Cod Toss.*



## ***Norwegian Language Classes Resume on September 19***

**Norwegian language students mark your calendars!** Nordkap's series of Wednesday night classes will resume at the Swedish Club, 22398 Ruth St., Farmington Hills, on September 19.

This series will include eight Wednesdays of instruction by popular Norwegian language teacher Merete Stenersen. Classes run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The cost for the series is \$80, payable at the first class.

**There will be no class on Hallowe'en**, October 31, which falls on a Wednesday this year. Instead we will add an additional Wednesday in November, to complete the eight classes, with the last class on November 14.

## ***A Letter from Nordkap's Co-President Haley Vingsness***

**The best way to learn a new language is by immersion.** This summer I immersed myself in Norwegian at the University of Oslo International Summer School (ISS)!

500+ students from 90 countries attend ISS. The program lasts 6 weeks every summer at Blindern campus, 15 minutes from central Oslo. It's not your typical university summer program. The course catalog doesn't offer biology or calculus. It's entirely Norwegian and International Studies! Courses include Norwegian language, art, history, literature, and film, and International politics, community health, and climate change. There's also an acclaimed Peace Studies program.

**I enrolled in Norwegian 1.** Although I've been attending our Lodge's language classes, my grammar needed some work, and I was grateful for the refresher since the class is rigorous. We had 3 hours per day of lecture and several field trips. The final exam, Norskprøve A2, is the prerequisite for a Norwegian residence permit. Taking Level 1 with me were 80 students of all ages, about half of Norwegian descent and half pursuing the permit. Enrollment was similar for Levels 2 and 3, required for university admittance. Further classes are offered at Level 4 (fluency) and Nynorsk.

**The highlight of the summer** was meeting people from all over the world! I now know people from Azerbaijan to Zimbabwe and everywhere in between. The program helps you make friends through a packed social schedule. Near-daily events include exclusive tours of Oslo museums, hiking, folk dancing, lectures, open-mic nights, and sports tournaments. For an even more close-knit experience you can live in the university dormitories for the summer. Each student also gets a free weekend trip to experience other areas of Norway. This year's choices included white-water rafting in Jotunheimen National Park or a Viking history tour of Tønsberg.

Sons of Norway Foundation and District 5 both offer scholarships to attend the International Summer School. The University also offers scholarships for all classes except Norwegian 1.

For more information, visit <https://www.uio.no/english/studies/summerschool/> or contact the North American admissions office at St Olaf College, (507) 786 3269 or [iss@stolaf.edu](mailto:iss@stolaf.edu).

**Med vennlig hilsen (with best regards),  
Haley Vingsness**

### ***Co-Presidents Meet in Oslo!***



*Co-Presidents Haley Vingsness, right, and Louise Giles connected in Oslo for dinner one night in August. Louise was on vacation with husband Bob and was able to contact Haley who was attending ISS.*



## ***Interested in Norwegian cooking, books, sports or genealogy?***

If you want to dive deeper into specialized Norwegian studies or activities, you will want to know about the opportunities soon to be available from our knowledgeable members. Several groups headed by the Nordkap members below are forming to learn about:

- Norwegian cooking—Mary Morehead
- Norwegian book club—Haley Vingsness
- Genealogy club—Carmen Collins and Haley Vingsness
- Sports club—Merete Stenersen

**Kransekake Class Offered:** Mary Morehead has already announced a Kransekake class she will offer in her home on Saturday, October 13, from noon to 4 p.m. It will be a hands-on class and you will be able to take a small Kransekake almond ring cake home with you. The class will be limited to 6 people and will cost \$10 per person. If interested, please contact Mary at (248) 229-9332.

**In general, the special interest groups will meet independently of our lodge meetings,** possibly at a member's home or church.

Depending on the area of study, they will cook together, read and discuss books about Norway or by Norwegian authors, or take part in outdoor activities such as those often practiced in Norway.

**If you are interested,** please contact the group leaders named above or e-mail your interest to [Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com](mailto:Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com).

## ***Happy National Potato Month!***

Potatoes have been an important part of Norwegian cuisine and culture for more than 250 years. They continue to be a staple ingredient in many traditional dishes like dumplings, lompe lefse, hash, and hasselback potatoes, but have also played a significant role in Norway's history.

The potato first originated in the Andes in Latin America where it had exclusively grown for 10,000 years before the first Europeans arrived. Those early settlers then brought the potato to Portugal in 1567, and with the help from European religious leaders potatoes eventually made their way to Norway in 1750. Priests and pastors, commonly referred to as "potato priests," were known for growing potato spuds on the grounds of their parsonage at the time. They would often move from district to district and teach people how to cultivate them on their own.

However, it wasn't until the Napoleonic wars in the early nineteenth century that potatoes were fully integrated into the Norwegian diet. The British navy blocked the seas around Norway. This eliminated grain imports from Denmark and struck Norway with famine. In desperate need of a replacement, Norwegians turned to potatoes, and quickly found them to not only be nutritious but also simple to cook, inexpensive, filling and easily grown in the harsh Norwegian climate and soil conditions. The humble potato has been a Norwegian favorite ever since.



*Kransekake  
(Mary Morehead photo)*

## ***Nordkap's Movie Night on September 22 to feature 'The King's Choice'***



The historical drama, “The King’s Choice,” will be the featured film at Nordkap’s first “movie night” set for Saturday night, September 22, at 7 p.m. at the Swedish Club.

Members and guests are invited to enjoy popcorn and soft drinks as we view this excellent film set during the German invasion of Norway in 1940. It stars Danish actor Jesper Christensen as King Haakon VII, who faced the difficult choice of surrendering Norway to Nazi Germany or refusing to give Norway up at all costs.

This special Nordkap showing offers a unique opportunity to see the film, which was not widely distributed here.

“The King’s Choice” represented Norway in the foreign-language-film category at the 89th Academy Awards ceremony last year. The ultimate winner of that category was “The Salesman,” a film from Iran.

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