



# Nordkapen

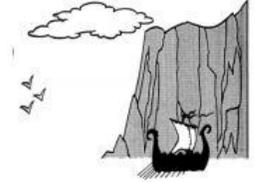
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

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>



## NORDKAP CALENDAR

**Thursday, June 23 – 6-9 p.m.**  
**Midsummer Celebration**  
**The Swedish Club**

**Sunday, Dec. 11 – 12:30-4 p.m.**  
**Christmas Party**  
**Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center**  
**Plymouth, MI**

### Nordkap 2022 Officers

**President:** Erik Duus

**Vice President:** Haley Vingsness

**Treasurer & Scholarship Chair:**  
Carmen Collins

**Secretary:** Mary Morehead

**Membership Secretary**

**& Sunshine Director:** Carol Jehle

**Social Director & Greeter:**

Eli Viik Steyskal

**Co-Cultural Directors:**

Karen Herche & Magda Pecsénye

**Sports Director:** Cathy Johnson

**Co-Youth Directors:**

Yana Thompson & David Thompson

**Foundation Director:**

Derrick Hendricks

**Co-Store Directors:**

Natalie Vaal & Dennis Flessland

**Editor & Publicity Director:**

Louise Giles

**Counselor:** Bob Giles

**Contact us:**

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

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

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**Norwegians in Michigan**

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/  
104416144749/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/104416144749/)

**Call and leave a message at**

**248-919-8355**

June-July-August 2022

Volume 92 Issue 4

## **Midsummer Celebration Set for Swedish Club**

June 23 is the day we Norwegians celebrate Midsummer or “Sankthansaften”—the eve of the birthday of St. John the Baptist and one of the longest days of the year.

Once again, Nordkap will mark the day with an outdoor picnic and games at the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills, MI.

Our bonfire behind the clubhouse will see us roasting hot dogs, toasting s’mores, and holding our traditional ceremony of burning a paper witch for good luck.

Join us beginning at 6 p.m. and reserve your spot for the picnic. Many events will take place around the fire pit, so bring your own lawn chairs, blankets, and anything else you need to be comfortable—such as bug spray!

Nordkap will provide hot dogs and buns, pop, water, and the ingredients for s’mores. Please bring whatever else you need to make your own picnic complete.

A hike to find hidden Viking symbols will begin at 6:15. The fire will be ready for hot dogs and picnicking at 6:30. The paper witch ceremony starts at 7:15. Afterwards, members can roast s’mores, then join the Billy Goats Gruff or Kubb lawn games. Everyone is invited to help clean up before we finish at 9 p.m. (Our rain-day backup plan is going inside the clubhouse.)



**Bob Giles & Erik Duus build last year's bonfire**



## GRATULERER MED DAGEN

### June Birthdays:

David Ray Bryhn, Sheryl Dalton, Jeff Hatteberg, Maureen Hatteberg, Kelsey Hibbs, Kathryn Injerd, Laura Radwan, Samuel Trupiano

### July Birthdays:

Lorelei Jeanne Øye, Jayne Lafnear Bannister, Gilbert Bergsrud, Monica Dowhan, Michael Duffy, Holger Ekanger, Christiana Hart, Ryan Hibbs, Debra Kraft, Greg Morehead, Mary Morehead, Ana Gjesdal Skidmore, Jacob Brian Skidmore, Jeannine Sturgeon, Abigail Sullivan, Erik Thomassen, David Thompson, Erik Vingsness, Bridget Wiley Robbins

### August Birthdays:

Rick Aardal, Jarle Amundsen, Louis Amundsen, Tove Bruning, Kristin Duus, Alexa Francis, James Green, Geir Gronstad, Øystein Gjertsen Hekneby, Lynn Herche, Richard Hole, William Injerd, Marina Kozlova, Georgia Roed, Gene Skidmore, Margaret Sorensen, Michele Thomassen, Lewis Vaal, Olivia Vaal

## Memorial Luncheon for Peggy Gjerpen June 18

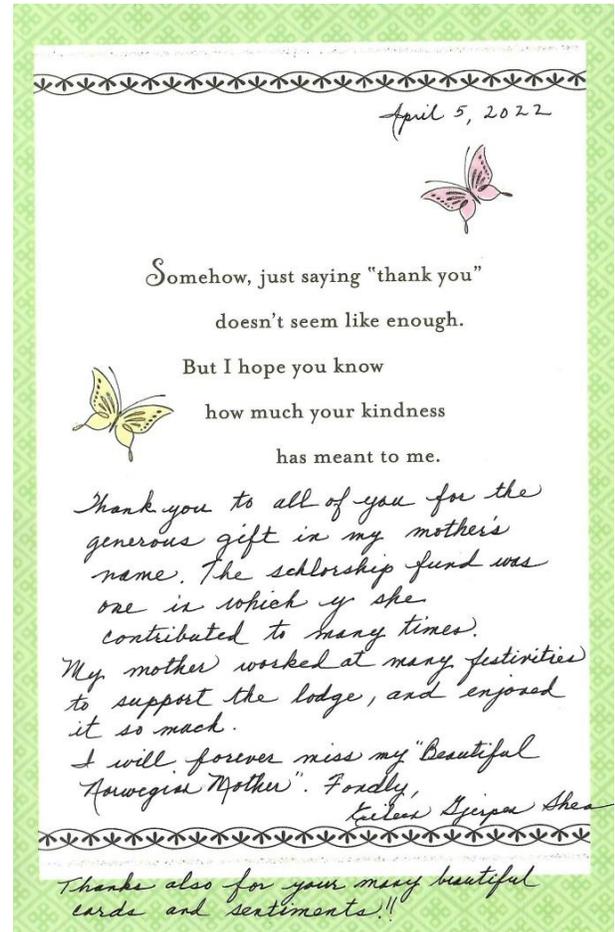
The family of the late Peggy Gjerpen is hosting a luncheon in her memory on Saturday, June 18, at the Comfort Inn Metro Airport, 31800 Wick Road, in Romulus, Michigan, from 1-4 p.m. Nordkap members are invited to attend, but you must RSVP by June 8 to daughter Eileen Gjerpen Shea by calling or texting her at **248-563-2996**.

Eileen requested that instead of flowers, friends could send a monetary donation to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund. Checks should be written to NORDKAP LODGE 5-378 with a notation on the memo line that the donation is for the Scholarship Fund -- or in memory of Peggy Gjerpen.

As reported in our last Nordkaper newsletter, Peggy passed away March 23, at 97. She was a member of Nordkap Lodge for nearly 55 years. To honor her memory, Nordkap donated \$75 to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.



**Eileen Shea with Peggy, Christmas 2020. (Shea photo)**



**Eileen conveyed her thanks to the lodge in the note shown here.**

## Sunshine Updates

**Pres Bruning** was recently awarded the new Pres Bruning Perpetual Trophy—basically a lifetime achievement award—at the Cloudbusters model aviation event. Pres has enjoyed building balsawood and tissue paper, rubber-band-powered flying model airplanes for most of his life. He has also designed, engineered, and created unique model airplanes like those in the photos. He has drawn up hundreds of plans for both existing airplanes and fantasy airplanes.

*Pres Bruning, his award & plaque, and with wife Tove and daughter Erika LaBarre (Erika's photos)*



**Georgia Roed** began a three-year term as a deacon at her church – the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.

**Elsa Jorgensen** has been nursing Original Brownie, a backyard squirrel diagnosed with mange, which caused it to lose fur. Elsa mixed special medicine with peanut butter and spread it on walnuts to feed the squirrel. Over a period of weeks, Original Brownie got several doses, grew her fur back, and is now much cozier.

Congratulations to **Lolly Duus** upon graduation in May from the University of Michigan with a master's degree in management.



*Lolly Duus, second from left, with mom Kristin Duus, sister Charlotte, and dad Erik Duus (Duus photo)*



*Brownie before (above) and after...(Elsa's photos)*





## ***We Bring our Constitution Day Celebration back to the Swedish Club***

The 208<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Norwegian Constitution was celebrated live on May 14, after holding only remote celebrations for the past two years.

**Some 76 members and guests** turned out in upbeat moods at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills for our parade, picnic, and games on a beautiful sun-filled day. They also heard news about Norway from Dennis Flessland, honorary consul of Norway to Michigan; saw a colorful array of bunads; and enjoyed live entertainment by Scandinavian musicians.

Popular events included our “import store” with Norwegian foods and gifts for sale, an expansive Norwegian dessert buffet, and games for kids and adults. Co-Youth Director David Thompson organized potato-sack and relay races for kids. Counselor Bob Giles directed our traditional Cod Toss, with frozen fish heads thrown for distance.



**Cod Toss winners were** Amelia Thomason of Taylor, in the Young Girls category; her brother Alden Thomason, Young Boys; Yana Thompson, Women under 40; Ryan Ekanger Wilson of Bloomfield Hills, Men under 40; Lisa Zmuda of Lake City, Minnesota, Women over 40; and Nathaniel Thomason of Taylor, Men over 40. Nathaniel also took the grand “Oh My Cod” revolving trophy.



***Lt. to rt: Cod tosser Yana Thompson; Bob Giles with Nathaniel Thomason, “Oh My Cod” winner; and potato sack racers.***

## ***A Significant Constitution Day in 1945 Recalled by Myrtle Ebert***

**Editor's Note:** *We enthusiastically celebrate Constitution Day here today in Michigan, but Nordkap member Myrtle Ebert reminds us of what it meant back in Norway just as World War II was ending. In a recent phone conversation with me, Myrtle recalled that day back in 1945, when she was a young girl, and the country was finally free after five years of German occupation. The following is Myrtle's story from my notes, printed here with Myrtle's permission. – Louise Giles*

**“I remember the days in early May 1945 in Norway just before the war ended for us** and the Germans were still there--it was such a frightful time. We heard terrible rumors and, of course, we had no radios, just these awful rumors. We were afraid the Germans were going to do terrible things before the end—go after the people who'd been against them. And there were other stories that the British would invade, and that would mean fighting and battles. Terrible rumors. We were so afraid; we went to bed with our clothes on in case we had to flee.

**“And then, came Liberation Day on May 8, and we were finally free from the Germans.** It was so exciting. We were so happy. No one went to sleep. We got out our flags. We hadn't been able to show them for years. And then on May 17, we could celebrate Constitution Day again—for the first time in five years!

**“The countryside was so green and beautiful.** The birch trees were out. In the village where I lived, Hauge i Dalane near Stavanger, I was to carry the Norwegian flag in the children's parade. We all wanted sunshine, but it just poured that day! The shoes I was wearing were made of paper. My dress was made from a sheet my mother dyed a bright color for me. But the rain made the dye run and the colors to stream down my arms and legs. My paper shoes disintegrated. Despite the weather, we celebrated all the same.

**“In the church service, the minister didn't say bad things about the weather.** He said that it meant God was good to us and had sent the rain to bless our country, to cleanse it. Of course, we knew he meant that the rain was to clean our country from the Nazi dirt.

**“That day was unforgettable. It makes me cry now to think about it.”**



*Myrtle Ebert, aunt of Erik Duus  
(Duus family photo)*

*Myrtle wants to add that Constitution Day in Norway—even today—is about celebrating freedom, just as her village did back in 1945: “We were so grateful for our freedom!” She recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and is currently recovering from hand surgery.*

## ***A Letter from President Erik Duus:***

**“Takk for sist!”** ...which roughly means, “Thanks for the last time!” Of course I’m referring to our Nordkap Lodge “Syttende Mai Celebration” on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Swedish Club, where I was excited to see *both* new and familiar faces. It was our first in-person May 17<sup>th</sup> Constitution Day Celebration since 2019; a wonderful, fun-filled time was had by all.

For those who weren’t able to join us, were you able to do anything “Syttende Mai-ISH” on your own either Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup>? I know some of us, like min Mor (my Mom), try to make a point of “checking in” with Norwegian family and friends...or we try to see how Constitution Day is going via Norwegian media or social media. I don’t know about you, but for many years now in the Duus household, celebrating “Syttende Mai” has been like getting a Norwegian heritage/culture “booster shot.” Joining with others at Nordkap for Syttende Mai really does help ground us in our Norwegian cross-cultural heritage; it also serves as a wonderful “springboard” into the spring and summer seasons.

**Ever hear of a “One Armed Viking?”** Well, I have certainly felt like one! As some of you may know, I had rotator cuff surgery on a massive tear in early April and was in a sling 23.75 hours a day for over 6 weeks. I’m so happy to finally get it off, but now the slow work of rehab/physical therapy has begun. Although I probably “saved face” in the end – since the winner threw that cod fish head incredibly far – I was disappointed I couldn’t participate in our famous (or “infamous”) Cod Toss Competition this year...but I’ll be ready by next year, Lord willing!

Like Thanksgiving Day, and the weeks following, helps “set the table” for the Christmas holiday season, Syttende Mai similarly leads us to our “other” well-loved, same-season celebration, “Midsummer’s Eve.” This year’s Midsummer’s Eve Celebration will be held at the Swedish Club on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 – 9pm (details are included in this issue of *Nordkapen*). Last June 23, 2021, our Midsummer’s Eve Celebration was our **FIRST** in-person gathering since February 23, 2020! So if you haven’t yet “resumed” your Sons of Norway Nordkap Lodge “life before Covid,” I encourage you to join us this Midsummer’s Eve. We’ll be Norwegians “midsummering” outdoors, just like we’re supposed to. *Until then...*

**Med vennlig hilsen (with best regards),  
Erik Duus**

PS—During the first few weeks post-surgery, I got to really enjoy some Norwegian television shows I intentionally sought out. To start, I got back into “Occupied” on Netflix, which depicts a fictional near future where Norway has stopped oil and gas production, and Russia, with support from the EU, occupies Norway to restore its oil and gas production in response to a European energy crisis (yes, its “fictional,” LOL). I also signed up for MHz Choice, a European streaming service with some good Scandinavian TV shows, and watched the Norwegian show “Twin,” with Kristofer Hivju, that takes place in beautiful Lofoten. Kristin and I both loved it and highly recommend it: [www.mhzchoice.com](http://www.mhzchoice.com) has a great trial offer! ☺

## ***Nature Hikers Rewarded with Abundant Wildlife at Metropark***



Nordkap Sports Director Cathy Johnson again picked a perfect day for a hike and seeing wildlife in Kensington Metropark in Milford. The morning of May 7 was clear, sunny, and not too warm as walkers joined Cathy for a 2-mile jaunt around the park's Wild Wing Lake.

The trail, trees, and lake were teeming with birds of many feathers for the eager photographers in the group. The wildlife included chipmunks, turtles, small snakes, and even a deer.

**Cathy, with her impressive photography skills, captured these images.** She anticipates leading more adventures of this sort, especially since she is looking forward to retirement in the fall.



## ***Revival Being Studied for Norwegian Language Classes***

Sadly, Nordkap's Norwegian language classes were suspended for more than two years, due to precautions taken during the coronavirus pandemic. But good news! Plans are now starting to take shape for reviving Norwegian language studies at our lodge.

**Nordkap Vice President Haley Vingsness is taking the lead on this initiative.** Among the options Haley is exploring are:

- Returning to weekly language classes with a qualified Norwegian language teacher;
- Establishing regular conversation groups for speaking Norwegian;
- A hybrid form of study where students would review existing online Norwegian lessons then meet weekly to review and discuss the topics covered.

**Haley will be developing a plan in the coming weeks** and share it with Nordkap members and other former language class students. Look for future announcements in this *Nordkapen* newsletter.

Nordkap's language classes held at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills, Michigan, were started in 2013 by former Nordkap President Geir Gronstad and taught by a professional teacher. Geir managed the classes for two years before handing responsibilities to Louise Giles. Louise managed the classes (with the support of her husband, Nordkap counselor Bob Giles) until the classes were suspended in March 2020.

The language classes were taught successively by teachers Adrienne Hayes Shepard and Merete Stenersen-Eelnurme.

### ***Convention News:***

## ***New Delegate for Nordkap; International Convention Goes Virtual***

**There's been an important change** in the four-member delegation Nordkap is sending to the Sons of Norway 5<sup>th</sup> District Convention in Wisconsin June 15 through June 19.

Alternate Jan Flessland will be taking the place of delegate Magda Pecsénye, who had to bow out due to family obligations.

Our delegation is now Dennis and Jan Flessland, Karen Herche, and Phyllis Skora.

**Another development regarding Sons of Norway conventions:** The 2022 International Convention will be hosted in a virtual format this year, August 31-September 1. The convention had been planned as an in-person meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Delegates for the international gathering are being selected at regional conventions being held by each of the eight districts.

## ***Lodge Bylaws Ready for Next Steps Toward Final Approval***

Nordkap members will vote on the revised bylaws for our lodge at our next gathering on June 23. The revised bylaws were read to members at our last gathering on May 14. Printed copies were also provided. Once approved by a two-thirds vote of members present, the bylaws will be sent to Sons of Norway International for approval by their CEO and Legal Counsel.

## ***Book Club Enjoys its First ‘Reads’ -- Will Reconvene in the Fall***

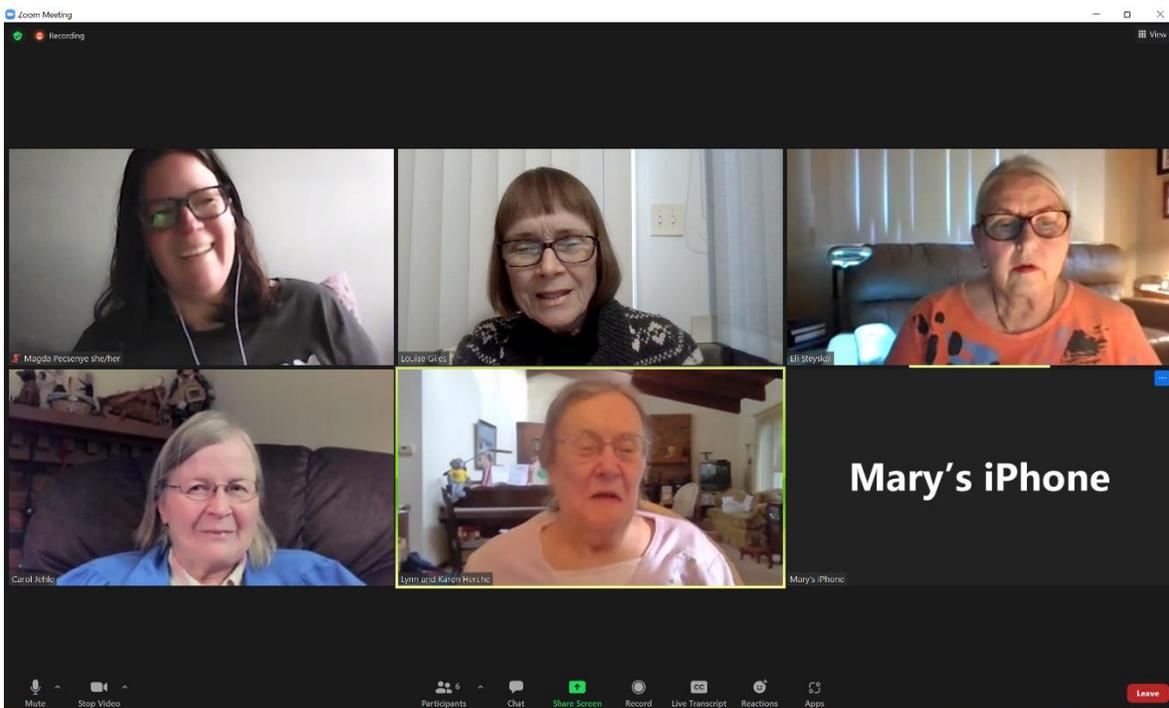
The newly initiated Nordkap Book Club closed the cover on its successful three-book run with a final Zoom meeting on Sunday, May 22. (See screenshot below.) Over the course of three months, eight people participated in one or more Zoom sessions, led by Co-Cultural Director Magda Pecsenye.

**Club members indicated they enjoyed the discussions** and complimented Magda on her good selection of interesting books to read. The load was light—just one book a month. These included *A Doll's House*, the famous play by Henrik Ibsen; *1222*, a page-turner murder mystery by Anne Holt; and a short *History of Norway* by John A. Yilek.

Participants who read all three books and submit some basic paperwork to Magda can earn their first Norwegian Literature Cultural Skills pin from Sons of Norway. Club members besides Magda included Nancy Fisher, Louise Giles, Karen Herche, Carol Jehle, Mary Morehead, Eli Steyskal, and David Thompson,

**The club will now take a well-earned summer break** before reconvening in the fall. Old and new members will be welcome to join in.

To earn the next-level Literature Cultural Skills pin, Club members will need to read a total of five books, which Magda will spend the summer selecting. She said the next series of books will be nonfiction, and she promised to consider book length in making her selections.



## ***Covid Illness Leads to Cancellation of Nordkap's Movie Night***

Nordkap cancelled a special screening of the Norwegian film *Elling* when a key player in the showing came down with COVID-19. Fortunately, all parties involved have since made a full recovery, so the only casualty was Nordkap Movie Night. We hope to reschedule the movie at a later date.

The screening was originally set for April 23 at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills. Members were notified of the cancellation in advance by email and phone.

## ***Last Call for Scholarship Applications, due June 30!***

All college-bound students hoping to qualify for Nordkap scholarships should be finalizing their applications to send to the scholarship chairperson. Applications are due June 30.

**Applicants take note:** Among the requirements are two current letters of recommendation, which must be written within the last year. These can relate to volunteer community service, participation in extracurricular activities, academics, and/or employment.

**Application forms are available at:** <http://www.detroitnorwegians.com/scholarship.html> or from scholarship chairperson Carmen Collins at [skicarmen@att.net](mailto:skicarmen@att.net).

Completed applications with all supporting materials can be emailed or sent by postal mail to Carmen. All instructions are on the website



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