



Nordkapen

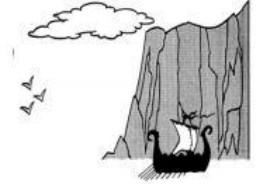
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

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 Norway Lodge in Michigan

<http://www.DetroitNorwegians.com>



NORDKAP CALENDAR

Saturday, Feb. 25 – 10 a.m. - noon
Cross-Country Skiing
Huron Meadows Metropark
Brighton, MI

Sunday, Mar. 19 – 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Family Bowling Fundraiser
Country Lanes
Farmington Hills, MI

Saturday, April 22 – 7 - 9 p.m.
Movie Night
The Swedish Club

Sat., May 13 – 11 a.m.
Norwegian Constitution Day

Sunday, Oct. 22 – 4 p.m.
Members Gathering
The Swedish Club

Nordkap 2023 Officers

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

Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com

Call and leave a message at
248-919-8355

Photos by Bob Giles,
unless otherwise indicated

February/March 2023

Volume 93 Issue 2

Letter from new President Haley Vingsness:

In the winter I bundle up like Randy from the movie *A Christmas Story*: "I can't put my arms down!" Leggings, pants, sweatpants, snowpants. 3 pairs of socks. T-shirt, long-sleeve shirt, sweater, sweatshirt, coat. The coat is 2 sizes too big so I can fit all the layers!



Perhaps I take a little too seriously the Norwegian saying, "There's no bad weather, only bad clothing." Layering causes more problems than it solves. It keeps me warm... and clumsy. I can't move, so I fall over.

Layering didn't help me learn to ski. When I fell, I'd roll down the ski hill. The snow would stick to my enormous coat, turning me into a giant snowball.

Layering didn't help me win at broomball. (Broomball is an Upper Peninsula tradition of hockey played with sneakers instead of ice skates.) Any slip on the ice had me on my back like a turtle. To quote Randy again, "I can't get up!!"

I played broomball last week for the first time in 10 years. For once, I tried dressing smart: long underwear, wool socks, pants, sweater. It worked! I only fell over once! My team didn't win but staying upright felt like a victory.

This month, our lodge meeting is Nordic (cross-country) skiing. Were you born with skis on your feet? I wasn't! If you see me fall, please help me up -- when I'm bundled up like Randy, I can't get up by myself! (Maybe dressing smarter will make this easier...) Endless thanks to David Thompson for the idea and his encouragement.

If you'd rather simply enjoy the fresh air with great company, please dress warm. After, join us for some après-ski fellowship at the brewery! Let's get outside together! See you soon!

Med vennlig hilsen (with best regards),
Haley Vingsness

(See complete details about Skiing Event on page 3)

In Memoriam



GRATULERER MED DAGEN!

February Birthdays:

Heidi Arahamian, Wyatt Boman, Kristine Dowhan, Kevin Duffy, Bill Edwards, Mark Eelnurme, Dennis Flessland, Janet Flessland, Louise Giles, Sven Hahr, Emma Jehle, Cynthia Keech, Steven Keech, Judith Kirsch, Erik Lundberg, David Nelsen, Magda Pecsénye, Arthur Peterson, Yana Thompson

March Birthdays:

Miriam Amundsen, Annika Eelnurme, Harald Ehrenfeld, Robert French, Lilje Gronstad, Sonja Gronstad, Tim Miller, Barry Rabe, Linda Radwan, Dana Runestad, Avery Jean Skidmore, Phyllis Skora, Sarah Stalmack, Hannah Thomassen, Jenna Thomassen



We sadly mark the death of our friend **Gustav Peter Blom IV** of Orchard Lake, Michigan. Peter was a member of the Sons of Norway since 1981 and had achieved Golden Member status. He passed away peacefully on January 5, just one day after his 99th birthday.

Peter was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to nurse Celia Johanna Boumeester Blom and Julius Blom, the local country doctor who'd immigrated from Norway in 1917.

About 10 years ago, Peter turned the notes his mother wrote into a book, *Memories of a Country Doctor's Wife*. The book told of a time of great hardship for country doctors, with few, if any, modern conveniences and no antibiotics to treat disease.

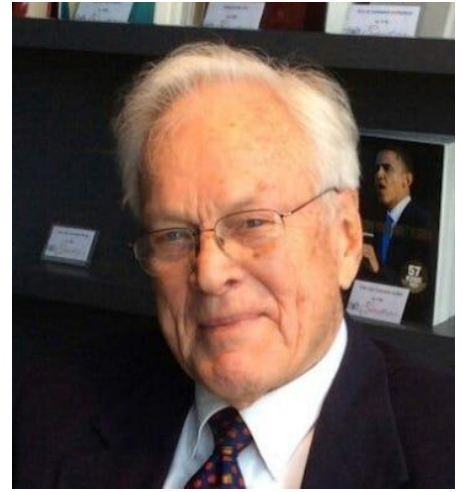
Still, Peter's parents made sure he and his late brother John went to college. After Peter graduated from the University of Illinois, he initially began his career in sales for the automotive industry. He later grew his business as a manufacturer's representative to having a staff of six when he retired in 1990.

Peter was a generous supporter of Nordkap and our Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

He and his late wife Martha were married for 73 years and had four children, two grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

In 2014, Peter was interviewed by a Norwegian film crew who were doing a documentary to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Norwegian Constitution. Peter's great, great grandfather, Gustav Peter Blom (1785 – 1869), was a representative to the Norwegian Constitutional Assembly at Eidsvold, Norway, and was one of the signers of the constitution.

In Peter's honor, Nordkap has contributed \$75 to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.



Peter Blom (family photo)

Join us for Cross-Country Skiing and Après-ski at a Brewpub



Bob & Louise Giles with David Thompson at 2022 event at Huron Meadows Metropark

Rediscover your Norwegian roots and join Nordkap's cross-country skiing event on Saturday, February 25, from 10 a.m. to noon at Huron Meadows Metropark at 8765 Hammel Road, Brighton, MI

Whether or not you ski that day, you're welcome to join us with your family at the park and afterwards at a brewpub in Brighton. Not interested in skiing and friluftsliv (free-loofts-leave) "life in the free air"? Just meet up with us at the brewpub around 1 p.m.

For skiers and non-skiers alike, the Metropark has a nice Ski Center offering a heated lounge, restrooms, and a concession stand (even with adult beverages). If you need a little instruction, Nordkap's Co-Youth Director David Thompson will be on hand between 10 a.m. and noon to help. Stay as long as you like. The park is open for skiing 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday.

However, after Nordkap wraps up our event around noon, everyone's invited to Brewery Becker at 500 W. Main Street in Brighton to purchase ales and lagers, or non-alcoholic beverages. There's also a light food menu to choose from.

Huron Meadows offers miles of groomed trails for skiers. Not enough snow? You can buy a \$5 pass and ski on Bucks Run, the park's 1.5-mile loop refreshed with snow guns. You'll need a \$10 daily vehicle pass. Bring your own ski equipment, otherwise ski rentals are available at the Ski Center at \$15 for adults and \$9 for youths under 16.

You must reserve ski rentals, but no more than five days in advance. To reserve, call (810) 231-4084 or reserve online. Be advised that ski reservation times can fill up fast, so do plan to reserve a few days in advance. For more information, see https://www.metroparks.com/huron-meadows-metropark/#cross-country_skiing



Huron Meadows Ski Center, above, and the Brewery Becker brewpub, right, at last year's après-ski event.



We're Bowling for the Scholarship Fund--at a New Location

Back after a long pause during the Covid pandemic is one of Nordkap's most popular events: family bowling!

The date for you to join us with kids and grandkids is Sunday, March 19, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Country Lanes Bowling, a spacious facility with lots of parking at 30250 W. Nine Mile Road in Farmington Hills, Michigan. If you don't want to bowl, you can still come to observe and enjoy the comradery as a "Viking cheerleader."



This event is a fundraiser for our Nordkap Scholarship fund. Half of the funds raised from the bowling event will go to the scholarship fund. The price for adults who bowl is \$25. The charge for kids and non-bowlers \$10. For bowlers, this includes two hours of bowling, shoe rentals, two slices of pizza, and a soft drink. Non-bowlers get the pizza and soft drink. **If you can't attend bowling but still want to contribute to scholarships, please write a check to Nordkap Lodge 5-378 with a note on memo line "for the scholarship fund."**

You don't have to be a professional bowler to have fun with us, but you need to register! **To register or for more information contact Bob Giles 248-302-2222 or BobGiles@NewCarNews.tv**



New Officers Take over in January—and There's a Surprise



Our January Members Gathering was a revelation to some who had never tried lutefisk. It turns out that lutefisk wasn't so bad! It was actually good. The proof was no leftover lutefisk—all got eaten.

The rest of the meal of meatballs, potatoes, and red cabbage went down well, too, along with ice cream bars for dessert. Many thanks to Dennis Flessland for preparing the food, with support by Eli Steyskal. Nothing but positive reviews from the 23 people there at the Swedish Club on January 29th.

The heart of the gathering was the installation of new President Haley Vingsness and the other officers for 2023. Counselor Bob Giles officiated. Also Nordkap welcomed a guest, Heidi Aprahamiam, who became a new member.

Those who stayed for “About Me,” the icebreaker board game, got to know each other a little better while also learning about the geography and history of Norway.



Haley & our Troll gavel



We Need Your Help to Continue our 17th of May Celebrations!

Will we have a Constitution Day celebration this year? It may all depend on you. Your lodge leaders urgently need your help.

Norwegian Constitution Day--Syttende Mai, the 17th of May--is one of the biggest celebrations we stage at Nordkap Lodge every year. And rightly so: Syttende Mai is often compared to our American Fourth of July Independence Day.

It takes many helping hands to host this popular event year after year. But it's mostly the same hands who've been doing it. And the people behind those hands--mostly our lodge officers--are getting tired, they're getting older, and they wonder how long they can do it.

We need more of our members to step forward and perform just a few simple tasks that could lighten the load. For example, could you:

- Come early to help set up the tables?
- Put together small sets of American, Canadian, and Norwegian flags for the tables?
- Carry one of the large flags in the parade around the Swedish Club?
- Be a greeter?
- Help people find their ancestral towns on the map of Norway?
- Sell goods at the import store?
- Help in the kitchen?
- Roast hot dogs?
- Contribute a six-pack of pop or a case of water?
- Bring a dessert?
- Set up the dessert table after lunch?
- Assist with the games, like the potato sack race and the Cod Toss?
- Help with the clean-up?

These are just a few of the many tasks that need to be done. All simple things, but if you need instructions, there are people who'd be glad to teach you.

Our lodge can only be successful with the help of our members. The officers can't do it all. We need you to volunteer, and it's fun to be a team member and work with others. Call or email the co-chairs of our 17th of May today to let them know that you'll help:

- **Haley Vingsness** at 906-231-9246 or haleyvingsness@gmail.com
- **Carol Jehle** at 248-626-2148 or jehlecarol@yahoo.com

Uff-da! Corrections and Clarifications

Natalie Flessland Vaal's name was inadvertently omitted as a member of the Christmas Party Committee in the January 2023 issue of Nordkapen. Thank you, Natalie, for your work with the committee to make the annual party a success.

The correct date for the **Nordkap Movie Night is April 22**, not April 27 as was erroneously reported in the January issue.

Camp for Youths Offers Unique Norwegian Experience

For over 40 years, our Sons of Norway District 5 has promoted our Norwegian heritage through its sponsorship of a unique and specialized camp, “Masse Moro” (lots of fun). The camp is open to children 9 to 15 years old and is located at the Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek, Wisconsin.

It will run this year for two weeks from July 16 to July 29.

A District 5 scholarship is available to help pay the cost. The Sarah Paulsen Memorial Scholarship of \$250 will cover 25% of the total fee. Application forms are available from the Scandiana Lodge Treasurer, Oleif Olsaker, 114 Maplewood Trail, Michigan City, IN 46360. Telephone: 219-877-7457 and email: olsaker.o@gmail.com. The completed application must be postmarked by April 15th and mailed to Oleif.

Book Club Members Earn Sons of Norway Cultural Awards

Seven members of the Nordkap Book Club have earned Sons of Norway Cultural awards for the first level of literature. They are: Louise Giles, Karen Herche, Carol Jehle, Mary Morehead, Magda Pescenye, Eli Steyskal, and David Thompson.

They each read the three books selected last year by book club leader Magda Pescenye and completed a simple online form to report on one of the books. The awards were presented at our January gathering.

The club is currently reading five works of fiction by Norwegian authors and will have a Zoom video conference on March 5 to discuss the fourth selection, the Norwegian best-seller, *The Bell in the Lake*, by Lars Mytting.

Nordkap Book Club members gather on Zoom in January



Who Says Books Can't be Fun?

- A book hit my head, and I've only my shelf to blame!
- Reading while sunbathing makes you, well, red.

Holding on to a Good Friend through Art

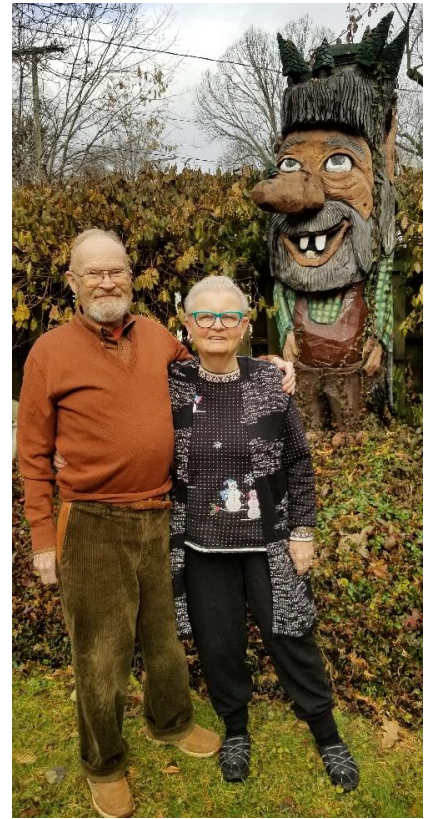
How do you say good-bye to a friend—a friend nearly 150 years old who gave you such pleasure and beauty over the years?

That was the dilemma facing **Tove and Pres Bruning** in their backyard as they saw their beloved ash tree slowly dying from an attack of emerald ash borer.

The tree had given daughter Erika a place to climb and to swing. There was a place for a hammock and cool shade in the summer. Tove could see it in all seasons from the window in her kitchen.

So when the upper, desolate limbs were removed and only the main trunk of the tree remained, they called in an artist and asked him to make a troll.

The artist had never done a troll before, but using only his chainsaw and some paint he crafted a friendly giant from the tree that continues to keep the Brunings company today.



NORDKAP LODGE 5-378

c/o Louise Giles

Box 1198

Royal Oak, MI 48068