



# Nordkapen

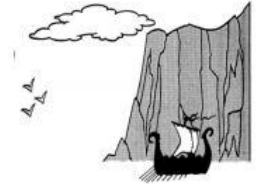
**Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway**

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

**Sunday, January 26 , 3 – 6 p.m.**  
**Members Gathering**  
**The Swedish Club**  
**22398 Ruth Street**  
**Farmington Hills, Michigan**

**Sunday, February 2, 3 – 6 p.m.**  
**Aquavit Tasting**  
**The Swedish Club**

**Sunday, March 30, 1 – 3 p.m.**  
**Bowling Fundraiser**  
**Country Lanes**  
**Farmington Hills**

**Sunday, April 27, 4 – 7 p.m.**  
**Movie Night**  
**The Swedish Club**

## Nordkap 2025 Officers

**President:** Haley Vingsness

**Vice President:** Heather Vingsness

**Treasurer & Scholarship Chair:**  
Carmen Collins

**Secretary:** Mary Morehead

**Membership Secretary**

**& Sunshine Director:** Carol Jehle

**Social Director & Greeter:**

Eli Viik Steyskal

**Cultural Director:**

Karen Herche

**Sports Director:** Mike Jarasz

**Youth Director:**

David Thompson

**Foundation Director:**

Derrick Hendricks

**Co-Store Directors:**

Natalie Vaal & Dennis Flessland

**Editor & Publicity Director:**

Louise Giles

**Counselor:** Bob Giles

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

Facebook:

Norwegians in Michigan

January 2025

Volume 95 Issue 1

## ***Warm Sweaters and Pot Pies in January!***



*We showed off our sweaters at a previous Nordkap gathering.*

**A good place to feel the warmth** of Norwegian comradery is Nordkap's January 26 gathering at the Swedish Club. We're inviting you to come--wearing a favorite Norwegian sweater--and enjoy a piping hot chicken or vegetarian pot pie for dinner.

After the meal, we'll ask you to tell in a few words why that sweater is a favorite of yours.

**Also our crafty expert, Mary Morehead, will teach a workshop** in making fabric star ornaments in red, white, and blue. Those colorful stars are used at Christmas, but wouldn't they also be perfect for the Fourth of July or Syttende Mai?



*(Photo by Mary Morehead)*

**Come see for yourself** on Sunday, January 26, 3 to 6 p.m., at the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth St. in Farmington Hills, MI. A donation of \$12 is requested for the meal.

*(See related stories about January 26 on page 3.)*

## Gratulerer med Dagen

### January Birthdays:

Sissel Amundsen, Lillian Bryant, Sally Duffy, Elizabeth “Lolly” Duus, Erik Duus, Elsa Green, Will Hahr, Courtney Krause, Cecilia Lundberg, Ava Markusen, Timothy Nilsen, Sigrid Radwan, Sean Schnitzer, Deborah Simms, Annelisa Sturgeon, James Zawicki

## Sunshine Updates



**Robert French's truck (his photo)**

**Robert French**, the son of Magda Pecsénye Zarin, was in a serious accident before Christmas that totaled his truck as he was driving home to Michigan after fighting wildfires in Washington State. He was on I-90 in South Dakota when he hit a patch of ice and his truck rolled over. The truck was destroyed and half of his possessions were gone, but thankfully Robert walked away with only bruising and some cuts. He got home with help from a friend and his dad. Now he's waiting to see how much he gets from insurance before he can replace his truck. He's hoping to get hired to fight fires in Colorado or New Mexico and is happy not to be in California fighting against those high winds.

Meanwhile, we wish the best for **Sandra Miller** and **Phyllis Skora**, both recovering from recent surgery—Sandra for her shoulder and Phyllis for an intestinal blockage and hernia.

## David Thompson invites: “Come Ski with Me”

**David Thompson is calling all** cross-country skiers to “come ski with me” from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, February 8, at Huron Meadows Metropark at 8765 Hammel Rd, Brighton, MI 48116. You’ll need to purchase a \$10 daily vehicle pass for the park.

For skiers and non-skiers alike, the Metropark has a nice Ski Center offering a heated lounge, restrooms, and a concession stand.

**Never skied before?** Or need a little instruction? David offers to be on hand to help during the time we plan to ski, but only for appointments set up in advance (text or call David at 734-276-8709).

**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.

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. Reservations must be made online at [https://www.metroparks.com/huron-meadows-metropark/#cross-country\\_skiing](https://www.metroparks.com/huron-meadows-metropark/#cross-country_skiing)

**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—the Brewery Becker at 500 W. Main Street—where you can purchase ales and lagers or non-alcoholic beverages.

There’s also a light food menu to choose from. Meet up with us at the brewpub around 1 p.m.



**David Thompson**



**Brewpub “team” in 2023**

## ***Auction Raises \$1,000—Now There's a Second Chance Sale for You***

**An abundance of goodwill** brought us a large number of donated goods for our successful Silent Auction in December. The auction raised more than \$1,000 for the Nordkap Scholarship Fund. Many thanks to our donors and our buyers!

A great number of items went to happy buyers, but a few remained. Some of those will be available in our “Second Chance Sale” at our gathering on January 26 from 3 – 6 p.m. at the Swedish Club.

**We'll be accepting “best offers”** from interested buyers. Among the goods getting a second chance will be an electric ebelskiver (filled pancake maker), a decorative wooden candelabra, a Viking-themed bank (with a secret opening), an adorable Little Mermaid sewing basket, and a ceramic whistle (or perhaps it's a bird call). There's also a small child's bunad and much more.

Come and see if there's something for you. All sales will benefit the Scholarship Fund.



## ***Nordkap Officers for 2025 to be Installed at January 26 Gathering***

As expected, Nordkap's officers from 2024 who ran for another term of office were re-elected at our lodge meeting in November. They will be installed in a brief ceremony at our January meeting. Our 2025 officers will be as follows:

**President: Haley Vingsness**  
**Vice President: Heather Vingsness**  
**Treasurer & Scholarship Director: Carmen Collins**  
**Secretary: Mary Morehead**  
**Membership Secretary & Sunshine Director: Carol Jehle**  
**Social Director & Greeter: Eli Viik Steyskal**  
**Cultural Director: Karen Herche**  
**Sports Director: Mike Jarasz**  
**Youth Director: David Thompson**  
**Foundation Director: Derrick Hendricks**  
**Co-Store Directors: Natalie Vaal and Dennis Flessland**  
**Editor & Publicity Director: Louise Giles**  
**Counselor: Bob Giles**

## Save these 2025 Dates for Upcoming Nordkap Events

- February 23: Gather with Nordkap at the Swedish Club from 3 – 6 p.m. for a new adventure—an aquavit tasting hosted by David Thompson and Heather Vingsness. Learn about this unique distilled spirit popular in Scandinavia while enjoying “small bites,” such as cheese and crackers, cocktail meatballs and weenies, and small desserts.
- March 6 – 7: Native-born Norwegian, Tabita Berglund, Principal Guest Conductor for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, returns for the second appearance in her new role with the orchestra. Berglund will conduct Beethoven’s Piano *Emperor* concerto No. 5 and Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Nordkap hopes to organize a group outing for one of the dates.



Aquavit



Bob Giles

- March 30: Our annual Bowling Fundraiser organized by Bob Giles returns to Country Lanes bowling alley in Farmington Hills. Bowl for fun from 1 – 3 p.m. with Nordkap friends while supporting this fundraiser for the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.
- April 27: We’re back at the Swedish Club from 4 to 7 p.m. with a special Movie Night. We plan to show *Number 24*, a dramatization of Norway’s most decorated civilian war hero, Gunnar Sønsteby, codename “Number 24,” who for three years during World War II led an Oslo-based group of resistance fighters against the German occupation of their beloved country.

- May 17: We’ll observe Norway’s biggest holiday, Syttende Mai, with a festive parade, music, games, and picnic foods at the Swedish Club. Mark the date that Norway’s Constitution was signed in 1814 by celebrating with us.
- June 23: We’ll gather from 6 to 9 p.m. at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills to experience Midsummer, one of the longest days of the year. There’ll be a bonfire, grilled hot dogs, and S’mores, and the burning of a paper witch for good luck.



Syttende Mai parade



Steak & Corn Roast afterglow

- September 7: We host the Steak & Corn Roast at the Swedish Club to thank the Swedes for renting us their attractive clubhouse for our events. Each year we prepare and serve the meal and enjoy a team “afterglow” on the deck after the cleanup is done.
- October 26 and November 23: Regular gatherings at the Swedish Club.

- December 7: A return to the Kilgour Scottish Centre in Troy for our annual Christmas Party and Silent Auction to benefit the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.



Rosemaling trunks auctioned in 2024

## ***Nordkap Delegates Report on Convention in Indianapolis***

**Pasties, Cookies for College, and reports from our convention delegates** highlighted our November gathering at the Swedish Club.

Pasties were a mainstay of copper miners in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and they've become a favorite hot meal for Nordkap during the winter months. Ours were beef, chicken, or vegetarian, served with gravy or ketchup. A salad and dessert completed the meal.

The Cookies for College were contributed by Nordkap members and came in many varieties, including Krumkake and gluten-free. Members could buy a dozen cookies for \$5. That raised \$125, with all funds going to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

**Reports from our elected delegates** came from Dennis Flessland, Mary Morehead, and Eli Steyskal. They were chosen to represent us at the biennial convention in Indianapolis held by the Fifth District of the Sons of Norway. Our fourth delegate, Phyllis Skora, was unable to attend our November meeting as she was recovering from recent surgery.



*A variety of Cookies for College*



*Delegates Dennis Flessland, Mary Morehead, and Eli Steyskal*

They also talked about their experiences at some of the workshops at the convention, especially the one where they made Sami bracelets.

**Dennis talked about the business** of the convention and noted that the resolution to ban the wearing of horned helmets when representing Sons of Norway lodges received virtually no support.

**Jan Flessland**, who accompanied Dennis as a non-delegate, said she was able to attend more lectures and workshops offered while the delegates were meeting. She said it was a good use of the time and she learned a lot from the sessions.

**Mary and Eli** relayed their surprise and delight at being asked at the convention to accept the five awards Nordkap won for the years 2022 and 2023. (The awards were previously reported in the September 2024 *Nordkapen*.) Mary said she was almost embarrassed to be picking up so many awards. Both remarked on how friendly everyone was.



*Mary & Eli display Sami bracelets.*

## ***Reflecting on our 2024 Christmas Party and Silent Auction***

**Kudos to our Christmas Party Committee** for bringing us another beautiful holiday celebration on December 15 at the Kilgour Scottish Centre in Troy! This was the second year they chose the Scottish Centre for the party, and the committee, consisting of Chair Mary Morehead, Connie Hart, Eli Steyskal, and Natalie Vaal, went out of their way to make the second time even better.

Visiting the buffet was much easier, with lines opened on both sides of the table. Relocating the Christmas tree to the center of the Great Hall created more space for people to dance around it. The extra tables for the silent auction made room for a much larger number of items. And it paid off--the auction raised \$1,085 for the Nordkap Scholarship Fund. Thanks to Auction Chair Carmen Collins, her collaborator Louise Giles, and their many volunteer helpers for their work.

**The table decorations were beautiful, and the dessert table--**with cookies by Natalie Vaal and kransekake by Mary Morehead--was a real hit! Here are some photo highlights of the party:



*Clockwise, from left: the Kilgour Centre's Great Hall; the Julenissen comes with gifts for the children; Roy Marvel finds the almond and gets a marzipan pig from Haley Vingsness; buyers check the silent auction tables; the buffet table; Natalie Vaal at the dessert table with her cookies and Mary's kransekake.*





## ***A Letter from President Haley Vingsness:***

**Dear Members,**

As we begin 2025, I'm reflecting on both the challenges and new beginnings for our community. It is with mixed emotions that I share news of the dissolution of the Sonja Henie 490 Lodge in Lansing. While this marks the end of an era, it also opens the door for new friendships.

**Let's extend a heartfelt invitation to former members of Sonja Henie to join our Lodge.** We are excited to learn from you and integrate your traditions into Nordkap. It's no secret that fraternal organizations worldwide have struggled recently. However, the struggle also offers a unique opportunity for us to reimagine our community. We can thrive by embracing change and fostering inclusivity.

January marks the beginning of our membership renewal period. There is no better time than now for you, our Nordkap members, to renew your membership and invite others to join. If you have friends from the Lansing lodge, please encourage them to join us. Together, we can build a lodge that supports everyone.

**In the spirit of inclusivity, the new year, and trying new things, there are several exciting things happening in our community:**

- *Norwegian Chamber of Commerce in Detroit:* The newly formed NorCham Michigan brings together Norwegian and U.S. companies engaged in international trade in Detroit (and Michigan). Join them on LinkedIn! I'm excited for a new avenue for our members to improve their businesses and professional networks.
- *Nordic Fire Festival:* Scheduled for February 21-23 in Charlotte, MI (between Lansing and Battle Creek), the Nordic Fire Festival encourages you to get outside and enjoy winter. There will be fire, Viking combat, traditional crafts, historical reenactments, and of course a mead hall. There are so many ways to participate.
- *Aquavit Tasting:* For our February meeting, we're going a little different than our traditional "meal & meeting" and try aquavit. Join us for snacks and (if you partake) some ice cold aquavit. Michigan has several local distillers, including Long Road and Norden.

**There are endless opportunities available to engage with Norwegian culture. Let's lay the foundation for a vibrant future together.**

**In fellowship, Haley**

## ***A Great Day at the 2024 Scandinavian Market for Nordkap Lodge!***

The 2024 Scandinavian Market at the Finnish Center on November 16 was one of the best-attended in years, with a crowd estimated at 1,200. When the doors opened at 10 a.m., so many people streamed in past our import store that it was nearly impossible to get through the aisles. Virtually all the spaces in parking lot were gone! All this meant a very successful day for Nordkap. Our import store virtually sold out. We sold 196 meatball meals and 88 Norwegian waffles. Basket and kransekake sales raised \$353 for the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all our volunteers!



***Huge crowds streamed in and virtually sold out our import store.***

## ***Bicentennial of the Restauration sloop's Sailing from Norway***



***Stamp issued in 1925  
for the Centennial of the  
Restauration's sailing***

**On July 4, 1825, a group of 52 Norwegians** set sail on the sloop *Restauration* to make the first organized migration from Norway to North America. Since that voyage, about 900,000 people have followed. Today nearly five million people in North America claim Norwegian ancestry.

**Many events are planned in 2025** to mark the 200th anniversary of the Restauration's impactful journey. One is being sponsored by two Sons of Norway 5th District lodges—Polar Star Lodge 5-472 and Cleng Peerson Lodge 5-525—along with the Norsk Museum in Sheridan Illinois and the Slooper Society of America.

**The event will take place October 3 – 5** in Norway, Illinois, and include “Slooper” pioneer history, traditional Norwegian culture and craft classes, Norwegian games and Movie Night, a Norwegian Barn Dance with Norwegian folk music and food, a traditional Norwegian worship service, and a chance to meet descendants of the first Norwegian American immigrants at their Slooper Society annual meeting.

**To get on the list for registration information**, email Barb Johnson, Polar Star Lodge Culture Director, at [barbjohnsonb@aol.com](mailto:barbjohnsonb@aol.com) . For more information and to check for updates see: [www.polarstarlodge.com](http://www.polarstarlodge.com) or call Barb Johnson at 630-632-2329.

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