



Nordkapen

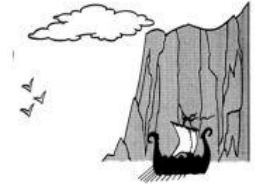
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

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, September 7, 1 p.m.
Steak & Corn Roast
The Swedish Club
22398 Ruth Street
Farmington Hills, Michigan

Sunday, October 26, 4 – 7 p.m.
Members Gathering
The Swedish Club

Sunday, November 23, 2 – 5 p.m.
Members Gathering
The Swedish Club

Sunday, December 7
Christmas Party & Silent Auction
Kilgour Scottish Centre
2363 Rochester Rd.
Troy, Michigan

Nordkap 2025 Officers

President: Haley Jarasz

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

September 2025

Volume 95 Issue 5

We're Roasting Steaks & Corn on September 7

Steak dinner with the fixings for \$20—and no tip. Such a deal!

That's what's offered at 1 p.m. Sunday, September 7, at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills.

Our Nordkap Lodge is again hosting this event for the Swedes under the guidance of Mike Jarasz and our President Haley Jarasz. Mike is the expert butcher and griller of steaks. Haley is Mike's loyal assistant and his wife.

Nordkap offers the Swedes this service to thank them for renting us their beautiful facility (at a great price) for our other Norwegian activities throughout the year.



Mike Jarasz grills steaks at 2024 Steak & Corn Roast.

We invite you to come as a paying guest—or, better yet, as a volunteer to help prepare and serve the meal. If you can help, contact Haley Jarasz at 906-231-9246 or haleyv@outlook.com, and come a little early on September 7 to help at the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street, Farmington Hills.

Dinner--complete with New York strip steak, roasted corn, cole slaw, fresh tomatoes, garlic bread, dessert, and coffee--is offered for that great price of \$20 for adults, \$10 for children.

Gratulerer med Dagen



September Birthdays:

Coco Bruner, Janice Capler, Marsha Gilman, Connie Hart, Haley Jarasz, Anne Kristine Kilen, Sandra Miller, Timothy Michael Roman, Sherry Rose, Eli Viik Steyskal, Heather Vingsness, Paul Wiekierak

Sunshine Updates

Congratulations to **Catie Hart** on becoming a national champion after four years of crew rowing at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Catie and her rowing team brought home a National College Athletic Association trophy for first place in national competition for Women's Rowing Div II.

Carmen Collins and Louise Giles were happy to pay a visit recently to **Marge Sorensen** in her new residence at Oak Court Terrace on Rotonda Drive in Dearborn, Michigan.

Marge was a stalwart Nordkap member and lodge treasurer for many years before declining health led her to pass on her treasurer's role to Carmen.



Lt. to rt: Louise Giles, Marge Sorensen, and Carmen Collins

11-Year-Old Selected as Top T-shirt Designer

We have a winner in Nordkap's T-shirt Design Contest!

The winning design was created by **Isla Markusen**, 11 years old when she submitted her design. Isla is a member of Nordkap Lodge along with her parents, Kara and Joseph Markusen of Brownstown Township, and her two siblings, Ava, 8, and Jack, 15.

The idea was to create a new T-shirt that Nordkap members would purchase and wear with pride. Eight designs were submitted at our 17th of May event. The winning design was selected by vote of our members at the Midsummer Celebration on June 23.

Isla's unique design will provide the basis for a professionally prepared and printed T-shirt, with Isla receiving the 1st shirt with our compliments.

Many thanks to others who entered designs in the contest: Isla's sister Ava Markusen, Olivia Vaal, Charlotte Bareid, Mary Morehead, Derrick Hendricks, and Bette Clary.



In Memoriam

We are sad to note the passing of Nordkap member **Sigrid Radwan**, mother of member Connie Hart and grandmother to Connie's three children, Christiana "Chrissy" Hart, Joseph Hart, and Caterina "Catie" Hart—all Nordkap members.



Sigrid Radwan, right, with Connie Hart

Sigrid Arenfeldt (Mathiesen) Radwan, 95 years old, of Ann Arbor, passed away peacefully on June 24, 2025. She was a Nordkap member for five years, attending gatherings with Connie. To cherish her memory, Nordkap is contributing \$75 to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

Read Sigrid's obituary

at: <https://www.niefuneralhomes.com/memorials/sigrid-radwan/4128353/index.php>

Three Nordkap Members Win Scholarships from the Lodge

Three college students—each of them a member of Nordkap Lodge—were chosen this year as winners of Nordkap Scholarships. Each student was awarded \$1,000.

The 2025 winners, their colleges, and chosen fields of study are:

- **Thomas French** – Muhlenburg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania -- History
- **Emerson “Emma” Jehle** – Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan – Biomedical Sciences
- **Kalina Thompson** – Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana – Actuarial Science and Statistics

Thomas French is the son of Nordkap member **Magda Pecsénye Zarin** of Natick, Massachusetts. Emma Jehle is the granddaughter of Nordkap Membership Secretary **Carol Jehle** of West Bloomfield and the daughter of Nordkap member **Jerry Jehle** and his wife, Dawn, of Rochester Hills. Kalina Thompson is the daughter of Nordkap Youth Director **David Thompson** and his wife, Nordkap member **Margarita Thompson**, of Livonia, Michigan.

The amount of money awarded to winners is dependent on money available in the Nordkap Scholarship Fund. Each year we hold fundraisers, such as bowling and the Christmas silent auction

Donations to the fund are always welcome! Questions can be directed to Scholarship Director Carmen Collins, email address skicarmen@att.net. Checks should be written to Nordkap Lodge 5-378 and sent to Nordkap Lodge c/o Louise Giles, P.O. Box 1198, Royal Oak, MI 48068. Please write “for scholarship fund” in the check memo.

Besides Carmen, the Scholarship Committee consists of Heather Vingsness and Bob and Louise Giles.

Acknowledging the awards:

- **Thomas French** wrote, “Thank you so much for giving me the scholarship! \$1,000 is no small potatoes! This will surely go a long way towards funding my school supplies and textbooks.”
- **Emma Jehle** wrote her thanks in a colorful note, pictured here.

In addition to her Nordkap Lodge scholarship, Emma was also received one from the Sons of Norway Foundation. She was one of three winners of the Foundation’s 2025 Beinhauer/Espeland Scholarship.



District Director Strongly Encourages Bringing Kids to Lodge Events

Editor's Note: District 5 Publicity Director LaVonne Wier recently offered this message in the District's "Friendly Fifth Friday News" e-newsletter. It's a message all Nordkap members should read and consider. The following is LaVonne's message:

I was privileged to attend Masse Moro [the District's youth heritage camp for kids aged 9-15] ... to teach a krumkake class. There were 10 children and assorted adults. Great bunch of kids.

While we were learning the basics of this delicacy and how to make it, I asked a few random questions. One question I asked was, **"Who here has ever heard of or seen the Viking magazine?"** Only 2 of the children said they knew about it.



LaVonne Wier (District 5 photo)

Goodness, gracious! These are the children who are interested enough in the Scandinavian culture and ancestry to go to a Norwegian camp. They should be more informed than the average Heritage member. That leads me to believe there are many Heritage members who don't have a clue about Sons of Norway and the Viking. [Heritage members are children 15 years of age and younger who have a family member in good standing with Sons of Norway.]

I'm writing today to ask you to encourage your lodge members to **SHARE** the Viking magazine with their children and grandchildren. They will see that Sons of Norway isn't just about traditional recipes and stories from the 1800's. The magazine gives current news and interesting information about what is happening in Norway.

We all (almost) love our lefse and lutefisk and aren't about to give it up. The children, however, need more relevant information if we are to keep their interest...and have them continue as **adults** in the Sons of Norway.

I've found that in many cases, the Heritage members are not brought along to meetings with parents and grandparents. They might not know what is going on in a lodge and might not understand what makes the organization important to Mom and Dad and Grandpa and Grandma. Are you taking the children along to meetings and events? Does your lodge have subjects/activities that will interest the children?

I felt the urge today to send this **"heads-up"** regarding our Heritage members. I hope you will address this with your lodge members. We want those young ones to continue with us after they age-out of the Heritage designation.

--LaVonne Wier, D5 Publicity Director



We Celebrated Midsummer This Year... but with a Few Twists

Normally, when Nordkap marks Midsummer Eve on June 23, we do it outdoors with a big bonfire to roast hot dogs and s'mores.

But this year, with the temperatures in the uncomfortable range of 100 degrees, we took the celebration indoors to make sure everyone was safe from the heat. Families turned out with kids and grandkids!

Air conditioning at the Swedish Club didn't chill our fun. The task of roasting hot dogs was taken on by Honorary Norwegian Consul for Michigan, Dennis Flessland, who did it in a skillet on the stove. Hot dogs were offered on buns or lefse, complemented by side dishes and desserts members brought from home.

We didn't pass up s'mores, either. Secretary Mary Morehead devised a way for the kids to safely roast marshmallows over a portable electric burner.

Mary also presided in place of President Haley Jarasz, vacationing with husband Mike at Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. (Haley's twin sister, Vice President Heather Vingsness, normally backstopping for Haley, was studying in Mongolia for her teacher's training.) Mary introduced editor Louise Giles who told the history of Norway's celebration of Midsummer and the roles mythical witches played. Eli Steyskal's granddaughter, 11-year-old Everly Bilicki, added that there were real witch trials in 17th Century Norway and many executions of convicted "witches."

We ended on a lighter note, with members voting on the best T-shirt design—see the members' choice on page 2.



Carol Jehle (center) brought 2 sons, a daughter-in-law, and granddaughter



Dennis Flessland



Kids had fun making s'mores...



..then had time to play with friends

A Letter from President Haley Jarasz:

Hi, it's wonderful to see you again!

Our club — just like Norway as a country — takes a summer vacation. The media has dubbed this slow news season *agurknytt*, or *cucumber news*. This summer we've enjoyed delightfully creative news headlines such as "Thieves steal hytte's toilet" or "wWarm weather breeds lots of wasps."

Did you know you can read Norwegian-language newspapers and magazines for **free** with Press Reader? Several libraries in the area offer "hotspot" access to Press Reader when you're physically visiting the library and connected to the library's Wi-Fi! When you're logged in to www.pressreader.com in "hotspot" mode, you have free access to read:

- 11 newspapers including Aftenposten, Aftenposten Junior, Dagbladet, Stavanger Aftenblad, Bergens Tidende
- 25 magazines including Se og Hør, KK, Mat fra Norge, and Hyttemagasinet

Libraries with access include Detroit, Ann Arbor, Royal Oak, Dearborn, Troy, West Bloomfield, and Bloomfield Hills!

I've been drooling over the beautiful hytte in Hyttemagasinet. July's issue featured a gorgeous one in Veiholmen with a gorgeous view of the sea. Plus, it's only the next island over from where my family is from in Nordmøre.

To close out the summer, the Michigan Renaissance Festival is hosting a Viking Invasion over Labor Day weekend. They are promising axe throwing, hearty feasting, and ancient crafts. Plus, their smoked turkey legs are unmissable. I'm excited for an excuse to wear my Valkyrie costume! It's usually too cold to wear to ours; I bought it when I lived in Texas, where the Renaissance Festival's weather is much warmer.

Nordkap is wrapping up summer with the Swedish Club. They host monthly brunches, and we are providing September's: a steak and corn roast. My husband Mike has been the butcher for several years now, and I can't give enough compliments to the chef. This man grills an excellent steak. I'm looking forward to another delicious steak dinner, I hope you'll join us!

Vi sees,

Haley



Nordkap Book Club Looks for Fun in this Season's Books

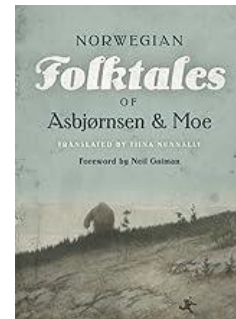
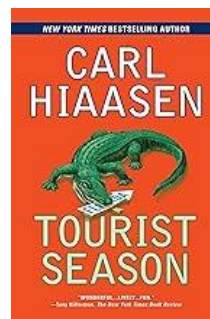
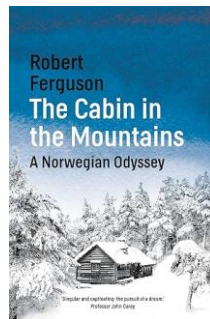
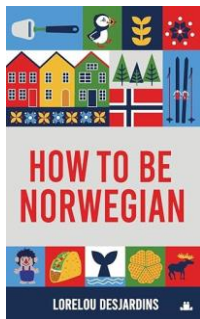
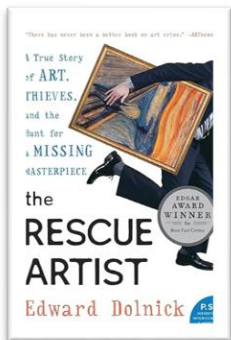
--By Magda Pecsénye Zarin

Once again, it's time for the Nordkap Book Club! Last year we did a unit on Immigration Stories. This season we'll be reading books that have an element of fun-- and you're invited, even if you haven't read with us before!

We read (or listen to) five books from September through April and have a Zoom meeting to discuss each one. This year's books will be:

1. ***The Rescue Artist: A True Story of Art, Thieves, and the Hunt for a Missing Masterpiece*** by Edward Dolnick
2. ***How To Be Norwegian*** by Lorelou Desjardins
3. ***The Cabin in the Mountains: A Norwegian Odyssey*** by Robert Ferguson
4. ***Tourist Season*** by Carl Hiaasen
5. ***The Complete and Original Norwegian Folktales of Asbjørnsen and Moe*** translated by Tiina Nunnally

The first meeting to discuss *The Rescue Artist* by Edward Dolnick will be Sunday, September 28, 7-8 pm on Zoom. We'll set the date for the next meeting at that first meeting. If you would like a reminder email sent to you the day before the meeting, send your email address to Magda Pecsénye Zarin at magda.pecsenye@gmail.com.



Nordkap Members Sponsor Vesterheim Rosemaling Class

Kudos to **Lynn and Karin Herche** for sponsoring an online Rosemaling class offered by the Vesterheim Folk Art School in Decorah, Iowa.

The course, "Rosemaling Fundamentals: Strokework for the Beginner Painter," will be offered on three consecutive Thursday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. Eastern Time, beginning January 22, 2026. The class cost for museum members is \$155; for nonmembers, it's \$170. Registration includes a complete kit of materials shipped to your home (a \$30 value).



Vesterheim photo

To register, go to <https://store.vesterheim.org/collections/online-folk-art-courses/products/2026-01-22-rosemailing-fundamentals-strokework-for-the-beginner-painter-online?variant=42330684457034>

New York Landing Ceremony Set for October 9

On October 9, 2025, around noon at Pier 16, South Street Seaport, New York City, a public gathering will welcome the replica ship *Restauration* after its long sailing from Stavanger, Norway. The event will commemorate the completion of an ocean crossing in 1825 when a group of 52 Norwegians set sail on the namesake single-mast sloop *Restauration* to make the first organized migration from Norway to North America.

Since that first voyage 200 years ago, about 900,000 people have followed, leaving their homes in search of opportunities and a better life. While many returned to Norway, most stayed and built a new home in the New World. Today nearly five million people in North America claim Norwegian ancestry.



NORDKAP LODGE 5-378

c/o Louise Giles

Box 1198

Royal Oak, MI 48068