



Nordkapen

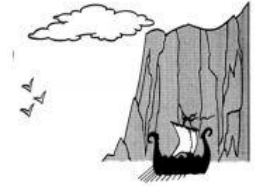
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

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, October 26, 4 – 7 p.m.
Members Gathering
The Swedish Club
22398 Ruth Street
Farmington Hills Michigan

Saturday, November 8
Scandinavian Market
The Finnish Center Association
35200 West Eight Mile Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan

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

Sunday, December 7, 12:30 – 4 p.m.
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

October 2025

Volume 95 Issue 6

Celebrate Halloween with Us ***At our October 26 Gathering!***

The theme of our October 26th gathering will be Halloween—and you're invited!

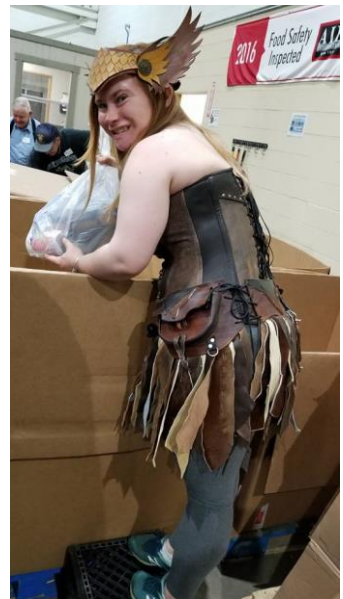
Nothing scary is planned for the evening, but we'll have Mary Morehead's spooky sugar cookies for you to decorate.

You can get into the spirit by wearing a horned helmet and dressing up like a Viking or a typical Halloween character. Our Lodge President Haley Jarasz has an excellent Viking outfit you'll want to see! But any Halloween costume is welcome. The important thing is that you be there--Halloween costumes are not required.

We may not be bobbing for apples, but Vice President Heather Vingsness has some other "minute-to-win-it games" planned just for fun.

We're bound to work up a ghoulish appetite, so we'll be serving pizza and salad. A \$10 donation is requested.

Please join us from 4 – 7 p.m. on Sunday, October 26, at the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills, Michigan.



Haley as a Viking



Gratulerer med Dagen

October Birthdays:

Gerald Bayer, Bob Giles, Kaitlyn Hattenberg, Eric Hetland, Katherine Hildre, Michael Jarasz, Carol Jehle, Cathy Johnson, Roy Marvel, Colin Miller, Elijah Savage, Erik Scharf, Trish Skorpen, Diane Stanard

Sunshine Updates

Member **Barry Rabe** recently retired from teaching at the Gerald Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, but he's still active in retirement. Barry and his wife, **Dana Runestad**, will be in Canada for the fall. He has a visiting appointment at the University of Waterloo and will be living close to campus in Ontario. They'll be back in Michigan late in the year, and we hope to see them at our Christmas party.

Congratulations to member **Phyllis Skora!** Phyllis became a great-grandmother on September 21st, with the birth of Levi Taylor Roman at 7 lb. 4 oz. He is the son of Phyllis's grandson, Austin Roman, and his wife, Haley Roman.

Member **Emma Jehle**, (below) who won a 2025 Nordkap scholarship, was featured in the Sept/Oct 2025 issue of the Sons of Norway's *Viking* magazine. Emma was mentioned because she won one of the Beinhauer/Espeland Scholarships offered by Sons of Norway. Congratulations to Emma!



Meatball Dinner a Hit at Scandinavian Market

Scandinavian food, holiday gifts, and music will greet visitors to the Finnish Center Association, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, at the annual Scandinavian Market on Saturday, November 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You can purchase Nordkap's popular meatball dinner (or the Finns' pasties) and then get an early start on your Christmas shopping.

Nordkap's meal includes meatballs, potatoes, red cabbage, cucumber salad, flatbread, and a choice of coffee or lemonade--all for \$11, and just \$10 if paid with cash. We typically sell about 150 meatball meals to hungry shoppers—and get rave reviews!

Jan Flessland's delicious Norwegian waffles with sour cream and jam will also be available for purchase.

Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, and Icelandic imports will be on sale. Featured items will include baked goods, hand-woven rugs, decorative art, pottery, lavender soaps and lotions, Scandinavian sweaters and crafts, and wood carvings.

Nordkap's participation depends on volunteers like you!

Nordkap can only do this if we have the support of our members. If you can help serve the meal or sell at our import table, please contact Heather Vingsness at heather.vingsness@gmail.com.

The public is welcome. The price is just \$2, paid at the door.

Norwegian Ambassador Visits Detroit

The Norwegian Ambassador to the United States, Anniken Huitfeldt, spent a half day visiting Detroit on October 2 in support of local Norwegian businesses and business development.

Dennis Flessland, the honorary consul of Norway to Michigan, helped make arrangements for the ambassador's visit, along with NorCham, the Norwegian Chamber of Commerce in Michigan.



***Ambassador Huitfeldt (center)
with Jan and Dennis Flessland***

In Memoriam

Sadly, Nordkap Lodge lost two beloved members in the past few months:

Inger Ehrenfeld of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away at home on August 10 at the age of 92. She was a Golden Sons of Norway member, with membership dating back to 1973. Her death was reported by her son, Harald Ehrenfeld. She is also survived by her daughter, Heidi Car of Bee Cave, Texas, and three grandsons.

Inger hailed from Rjukan, Norway, where her father, Holt, worked at the “heavy water” factory in Telemark. During World War II, he was one of those “Hidden Heroes” who worked quietly to help defeat the Nazis and win the war. Holt was part of the underground operation to deny the Germans access to the factory’s water, which they could have used to make atomic bombs. Soon after, he had to escape to Sweden to avoid capture and almost certain death at the hands of the Nazis.



Inger & troll gavel

In peacetime, Holt was a woodcarver by hobby. Meanwhile, his daughter, Inger, had moved to America, married, and joined Nordkap Lodge when Holt visited her in 1994. He realized that Nordkap needed a gavel, so he carved one in the shape of a troll’s head, probably to lend a bit of extra authority to the presidents who would wield it. We still use that gavel at our monthly members gatherings.

Besides coming to our gatherings, Inger and Harald were regulars at Nordkap’s Norwegian language classes where she was a great resource. Lodge members will fondly recall the delicious pastries she made and contributed to our events.

The family plans to return Inger’s remains to Rjukan, Norway, next year.

Nancy Redilla, 89, a Sons of Norway member for 29 years, passed on September 14 at home in Davison, Michigan. Her death was reported by her son, Ted Redilla.

Nancy was a longtime member of Samhold Lodge but transitioned to Nordkap in 2020 when Samhold merged with Nordkap.

Anyone who knows Nancy will recall her remarkable love of animals. She was always happy to relate her escapades with Blossum, a good friend’s goat. Nancy was so fond of dogs, she baked homemade dog biscuits for them. Each year, she was a regular at the Pet Blessings at Unity Church in Rochester. Her efforts in behalf of animals culminated in strong support for ARK—the Association to Rescue Kritters, a wildlife rescue service that rehabilitates injured wild animals and, when they recover, returns them back to the wild. ARK is located in Michigan’s Roscommon County.

Nancy’s many years of life didn’t come without medical challenges. The biggest came in 2020 when she entered Ohio’s Cleveland Clinic to replace the aortic valve in her heart. That bought her five more years of good living, and as Nancy always said, she was Viking Strong! A memorial is tentatively being planned for a later date at the Davison Church of Christ.



Inger & krumkake



Nancy Redilla (family photo)

Watch the Mail for Your Invitation to our December Christmas Party

Mary Morehead, the chair of our December 7th Christmas Party, will be putting your invitation and reply form in the mail in about a week. Once again, the party will be at the beautiful Kilgour Scottish Center in Troy with its vaulted ceiling and many fireplaces. We'll have a typical Norwegian Christmas meal, dancing around the tree, a visit from the Julenisse with gifts for the kids, and an extensive silent auction to benefit our scholarship fund.

We hope you'll want to come, but you'll need to get your RSVP and payment back to Nordkap Treasurer Carmen Collins soon. Instructions will be in the invitation. The price of just \$50 for adults goes up after November 24.

Your Donations Are Needed for our Fundraiser Silent Auction

Proceeds from our silent auction at the Christmas party on December 7 will again benefit our Nordkap Scholarship Fund. In 2025, the fund provided a total of \$3000 to three deserving college students.

You can help by supporting the auction with your donated items—particularly things with a Norwegian origin or theme.

Please bring your donations to our upcoming Members Gatherings at the Swedish Club on October 26 and November 23 or to the Scandinavian Market at the Finnish Center on November 8.

Carmen Collins and **Louise Giles**, who organize the auction, will be glad to receive your donations.

Another Thank-You from a Nordkap Scholarship Recipient

Scholarship Chair Carmen Collins recently received the following note from **Kalina Thompson**, one of our three 2025 scholarship winners:

Dear Carmen and the Sons of Norway Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to sincerely thank you for awarding me the Sons of Norway Scholarship for a fourth year. I am honored to be selected as a recipient, and I truly appreciate your generosity and support.

This scholarship will make a meaningful difference in helping me pursue my academic and career goals, and I am grateful for the opportunity it provides.

Thank you again for your support and encouragement. Sincerely, Kalina Thompson

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In remembrance: Nordkap has donated a total of \$150 to the scholarship fund in memory of our late members, **Ingrid Ehrenfeld** and **Nancy Redilla**.

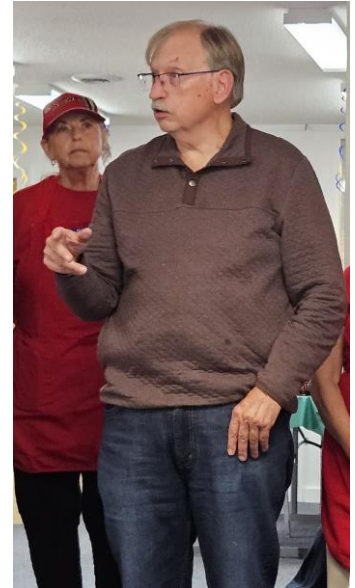
Steak and Corn Roast Goes Down Well with the Swedes!

The delicious aroma of grilled steaks, fried mushrooms, and roasted corn filled the Swedish Club on September 14 as Nordkap again hosted the Steak and Corn Roast in Farmington Hills. Our lodge puts on the annual fundraiser to thank the Swedes for renting us their clubhouse for our gatherings.

Total steaks grilled this year were down to just 35, but spirits were high as we served the Swedes a delicious meal and Honorary Norwegian Consul Dennis Flessland updated them with news from Norway.

Kudos to organizers Mike Jarasz and Haley Vingsness and their volunteers, Carmen Collins, Bob and Louise Giles, Karen and Lynn Herche, Carol Jehle, Mary Morehead, Eli Steyskal, and Bette Clary.

After the clean-up, team spirit continued high on the Swedes' newly renovated deck as Nordkap's crew enjoyed toasting with three different varieties of aquavit.



Dennis Flessland



Our crew enjoys an afterglow on the deck with a tasting of aquavit.



Swedish Club President Dan Nelson (left) receives thanks and complementary ticket to Nordkap's Christmas party from Bob Giles.

Finnish Center Offers Nordic Heritage Folk Dance Practice on October 19

The Nordic Heritage Folk Dance group welcomes both children and adults to come and learn basic steps like polka, waltz and schottische. They are simple-to-intermediate folk dances depending on the dancers' skills. The goal is to have fun while keeping the cultures of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden alive through folk dancing.

The next practice is Sunday, October 19, 2-5 p.m. at the Finnish Center Association, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan. If you have any questions please email Glendene Thornbloom at gathorn4@gmail.com or the FCA at contactus@finnishcenter.org.

Your Talents are Needed to Help Chart the Future of our Lodge

Nordkap has been blessed with outstanding leaders. Yet at the end of each year, as we prepare to elect new officers, we try to tap the talents of other members by nominating them for officers positions.

You could be one of our candidates running for election.

Taking on the challenge of lodge leadership offers you the opportunity to gain more experience in managing events and organizing people. You become part of a leadership team and, by working together, you grow closer to our members and develop new friendships that can last for many years. The rewards can far outweigh the demands on your time and talents.

Nordkap will hold the election of 2026 officers at our gathering on November 23. Please consider running for office. All positions are open. And more than one candidate can run for the same office.

Many of our current officers are willing to stay on for another year, but they welcome any who want to compete with them for election.

The positions we will fill are:

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Membership Secretary

Social Director & Greeter

Cultural Director

Sports Director

Youth Director

Foundation Director

Store Director

Editor

Counselor

If you wish to be a candidate for office, please contact members of our nominating committee:

Haley Jarasz at haleyvingsness@gmail.com and Louise Giles at louiseagiles@gmail.com .

About Volunteering...

- Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. – *Elizabeth Andrew*
- Volunteers are not paid because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.
- Volunteering is not a choice, it's a responsibility

A Letter from President Haley Jarasz:

This fall, we have something truly special to celebrate: 200 years of organized Norwegian immigration to the United States. To mark this historic milestone, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Haakon of Norway is visiting the U.S. to greet the replica of the ship Restauration, honoring the courage of those first immigrants who set sail across the Atlantic with little more than hope and heart. My own family immigrated to the Traverse City area, settling in "Swedetown."

For our lodge, this anniversary is more than just a date on the calendar. It's part of our story. Many of our members can trace their roots back to those early immigrants who built homes, churches, and communities that kept Norwegian traditions alive even as they embraced a new land.

When I lived in Texas, I visited the town of Clifton, knowing little about it besides that it had a Norwegian Christmas celebration. I had no idea that I was visiting one of the very first Norwegian immigrant communities. I definitely didn't expect to see historical Norwegian farms in rural Texas. Cleng Peerson, who sailed the Restauration, took one of the very first groups of Norwegian immigrants to Texas in 1850... the diaspora is truly country-wide!

For our native-born Norwegian members, this visit is a reminder of how strong the bond remains between Norway and the United States. And of course, the timing of Crown Prince Haakon's visit couldn't be better. The World Series playoffs are in full swing—and rumor has it the King himself is a Yankees fan!

As we welcome the Crown Prince, let's celebrate the friendship between our two nations, 200 years strong.

Vi sees,

Haley



Haley Jarasz





Nordkap Lodge Chefs Having Fun Cooking
Norsk Kaker og Fruktsuppe Klasse
(Pasties and Fruit Soup)



What a fun day we had in September making beef and vegetarian pasties and fruit soup. Yes, fruit soup which was a specialty of Roy Marvel's grandmother's recipe. I had never heard of fruit soup before, but it was very tasty, warm or cold with homemade whipped cream. The dough of the pasties was made from scratch, and they were totally delicious. Everyone was able to take a few home.

Pictures of chefs from left to right in row one: Dee Marvel (protecting her eyes from onions), Roy Marvel, Eli Steyskal, and Derrick Hendricks; ***row two:*** Carol Jehle, Eli, Derrick, Roy, Carol, Dee, Dee and Roy Marvel.

--Story and photos by Mary Morehead



Leif Erikson Day is Celebrated on October 9

--From the Sons of Norway newsletter service

Leif Erikson

Leif Erikson [Leiv Eiriksson] was a Norse explorer, known for the discovery of Vinland around the year 1000. Leif and his companions may thus have been the first Europeans to “discover” America.

Leif was the son of the Norwegian-born Eirik Raude [Erik the Red] and his Icelandic wife Tjodhild. He grew up in Greenland.

According to Erik the Red's saga, Leif Erikson sailed to Norway in 999. There he was baptized and commissioned to introduce Christianity to Greenland. His father is said to have refused to accept the new faith, while his mother was baptized and built the first Greenlandic church.

We do not know for sure when Leif died. He is last mentioned alive in 1019, and was probably dead before 1025, because according to the *Fostbrødrene* saga, his son Torkell had by then become chieftain in Eiriksfiord and lived on Brattalid.



The Vinland Expedition

According to Erik the Red's saga, Leif went off course on his way home to Greenland from Norway in 999 and discovered a land with self-sown wheat fields and vines (Vinland). In *Grønlandingenes* saga, however, it is said that Leif's discovery of Vinland was the result of a planned expedition.

A Norse settlement was found in the 1960s at L'Anse aux Meadows, on the northern tip of Newfoundland in Canada. This has been interpreted as the Vinland of the sagas. If Vinland refers to a land where wine grapes grow, the latter option is most likely.

The memory of Leif's voyage to Vinland

The memory of Leif Erikson and the significance of his discovery were seriously raised at the end of the 19th century. At the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, which was dedicated to the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' first voyage to America, Christian Krohg's painting of Leif Erikson was sent from Norway, and the ship *Viking*--a copy of the Gokstad ship--was taken by Magnus Andersen across the Atlantic to Chicago and became the subject of great attention.

In 1964, U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed October 9 as an official national day of remembrance in memory of Leif Erikson's discovery. The date of Leif's arrival in Vinland is not specified in the sagas, but it is said to have been in the autumn. October 9 was chosen because the Norwegian emigrant ship *Restauration* arrived in New York on this date in 1825.

Nordkap Book Club Finds 'The Escape Artist' Not a Scream

Four members of the Nordkap Book Club met on September 28 on Zoom to discuss the first book of the fall 2025 season, *The Escape Artist*. This book initially held out much promise as the story of the exciting theft and recovery of Edvard Munch's painting "The Scream" in 1994.

However, most club members found it focused too much on Charley Hill--the eccentric Art Squad detective from Scotland Yard who recovered the painting--and strayed from the main story of the robbery and the crooks who pulled it off. While detective Hill was an interesting character, author Edward Dolnick seemed to be stuck analyzing Hill's personality and psychological make-up. Readers also felt the book was somewhat disorganized and needed tighter editing.

Next up will be *How To Be Norwegian* by Lorelou Desjardins, with discussion at 7 p.m. Sunday, October 19, on Zoom.

***Book Club on Zoom, clockwise from top left:
Magda Pecsenty Zarin, Louise Giles,
Karen Herche, and Carol Jehle***



NORDKAP LODGE 5-378

c/o Louise Giles

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Royal Oak, MI 48068