



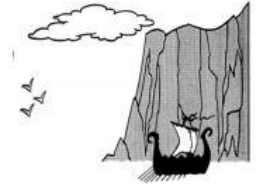
Nordkapen

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



NORDKAP CALENDAR

Sunday, January 25, 3 – 6 p.m.
Members Gathering
The Swedish Club
22398 Ruth Street
Farmington Hills, Michigan

Sunday, February 23, 3 – 6 p.m.
Members Gathering
The Swedish Club
22398 Ruth Street
Farmington Hills, Michigan

March Event: Ice Curling
Date TBD
The Hub Stadium
44325 W. 12 Mile Rd
Novi, Michigan

Nordkap 2026 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:
Sandra Miller
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

<http://www.detroitnorwegians.com/>

January 2026

Volume 96 Issue 1

Look What's in Store for January's Gathering

Yes, December and the holidays are over, but don't think that January has to be dull.

Join Nordkap at our gathering on January 25 and experience lots of good things:

Our favorite Nordkap chef, **Dennis Flessland**, will be cooking up a traditional Norwegian meal of **lutefisk and meatballs**. If you haven't tried lutefisk, this will be your chance! Your donation of \$10 is requested.

We're inviting each member to bring one of their **favorite rosemaling items** to "show and tell" their story about that item.

If you missed our silent auction at the Christmas party in December—not to worry. We'll be offering a **second chance auction** in January where you can purchase a few select items that remain, including some Norwegian pewter—so special we can't believe it didn't sell!

Our **Nordkap officers for 2026** will be officially installed. Please come out to cheer on these spirited folks who have volunteered to lead our lodge for another year!

Our gathering is set for the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills from 3-6 p.m. on Sunday, January 25.



Dennis Flessland



Gratulerer med Dagen!



January Birthdays:

Sissel Amundsen, Donald L. Bjornrud, Jr., Lillian Bryant, Sally Duffy, Elizabeth "Lolly" Duus, Erik Duus, Elsa Green, Will Hahr, Cecilia Lundberg, Ava Markusen, Timothy Nilsen, Deborah Simms, Annelisa Sturgeon, James Zawicki



Sunshine Report

Best wishes to **Carmen Collins** following her cataract surgery.

* * *

Do you have a notable event or achievement to share with fellow Nordkap members? We'd love to know about it to include in our Sunshine Report.

Please send your item to Nordkap editor Louise Giles at louiseagiles@gmail.com

Come Ski with Us & Grab a Brew in Brighton

Once again, Nordkap invites you to join our cross-country skiing event on Saturday, February 21, from 10 a.m. to noon at Huron Meadows Metropark at 8765 Hammel Road, Brighton, Michigan.

Whether or not you ski that day, you're welcome to join us with your family at the park and afterwards around 1 p.m. at 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.

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



Last year's ski outing (Eli Skeyskal photo)

If you need instruction, Nordkap's Youth Director David Thompson can be on hand between 10 a.m. and noon to help, but only for appointments set up in advance (please text or call David at 734-276-8709 to set up a time). Remember you need to purchase a \$10 daily vehicle pass for the park.

Huron Meadows offers miles of groomed trails for skiers. Winter closures, conditions, and grooming updates are posted by the park daily by 10 a.m. on weekdays and 8:15 a.m. on weekends. Check the postings at <https://www.metroparks.com/park-closures/#HuronMeadowsMetropark>

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 \$20 for adults and \$15 for youths under 16. You must reserve ski rentals, but no more than five days in advance. Reservations must be made online through the park at https://www.metroparks.com/huron-meadows-metropark/#cross-country_skiing

Here's a Detroit Symphony Orchestra Event You Won't Want To Miss!

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra is offering a two-week music festival in April destined to pull on the heart strings of anyone with ancestry from Norway, Finland, Sweden, or Denmark.

The symphony's Northern Lights Festival at Detroit's Orchestra Hall will offer two different concerts, the first scheduled the weekend of April 9-11 and the second staged the weekend of April 18-19.

Each of the concerts will be led by the DSO's Principal Guest Conductor and native-born Norwegian, Tabita Berglund. Those interested in purchasing tickets should do so well in advance in order to secure seats.



Tickets start at just \$20.95 and can be purchased online at the Detroit Symphony website at dso.org.

Either of the concerts should be enjoyable, but Nordkap members may be especially interested in the concert offered on April 9 at 7:30 p.m., April 10 at 8 p.m., and April 11 at 8 p.m. since it features Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite*. Also in that concert will be works by two Finnish composers, Einojuhani Rautavaara's *Cantus Arcticus (also known as Concerto for Birds and Orchestra)* and Jean Sibelius's *Violin Concerto & Orchestra in D Minor*.

The second concert, offered on April 18 at 8 p.m. and April 19 at 3 p.m., continues the Nordic theme with compositions from Sweden and Denmark. These will include Swedish-born Wilhelm Stenhammar's *Excelsior!*, Swedish composer Anders Hillborg's *Violin Concerto No. 2*, and Danish composer Carl Nielsen's *Symphony No. 5*.

Social Time: If you do purchase tickets, you may want to arrive an hour before your concert to allow time to socialize with others in the atrium at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201

Parking: The DSO Parking Deck is located at 81 Parsons Street. Self-parking in the garage costs \$15 for most concerts (credit card payment only).

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Editor's Note: *The letter from President Haley Jarasz will return next month.*

Teamwork Delivered a Great 2025 Nordkap Christmas Party

Nordkap rented the Kilgour Scottish Centre in Troy for our festive Christmas party for the third year. And it came off beautifully, thanks to precise teamwork between the Scots and the Norwegians.

Together we converted the space from a full-blown Craft Fair with vendors to a party setting in less than 24 hours. How was that done? Here's how it worked.

The Craft Fair was set for the day before our party, and vendors wouldn't start packing up until it closed at 3 p.m. Meanwhile Nordkap needed the same space by 10 a.m. the next day. That meant completely moving out the fair and bringing in chairs and tables of eight for 64 people plus additional set-ups for a buffet, drinks, and desert service. Plus a Christmas tree had to be moved so we could dance around it the next day.

To keep costs low, no professional movers were hired. Instead, the work would be done by the Scots who organized the fair and the Norwegians who planned the party.



Here's how it began with Santa at the Fair. Next, our combined team got to work.



The place is clear. Note the tree at the far back of the room. (Continued next page)



Continued from previous page: The team brings in the tables, chairs, and podium.



Next morning the tables are set! Note the tree in the center of the room.



Finally, the party begins, and we celebrate with a dance around the tree!

Christmas Party Highlights: Dancing, Desserts, Julenisse, & Auction

So our Christmas Party on December 7 was all set for dancing around the tree. But there was so much more: a tasty dinner buffet with ham and salmon for adults and chicken tenders and fries for the kids. Desserts were picture perfect with Mary Morehead's towering kransekake and Natalie Vaal's hand-decorated cookies. The kids' favorite had to be the Julenisse with individual gifts for every kid.



Proceeds from the silent auction surpassed last year's total, bringing in \$1,128 for the Nordkap Scholarship Fund--thanks to the Silent Auction committee chair Carmen Collins, assisted by Louise Giles, Bob Giles and many valued volunteers. Most of all, many thanks to the Christmas Party committee of Eli Steyskal, Natalie Vaal, and chair Mary Morehead.



Lt. to rt., Top Rows: Collin Miller admires the dessert table, boys receive gifts from the Julenisse, Lewis Vaal and James Zawicki show off Pokémon cards. Bottom Rows: Silent Auction cashiers finalize sales, including special items like unique pottery and the gloves hand-knit by Karen Lafner in the famous Selbu mitten pattern.



Anonymous Donor Greatly Enriches Nordkap Scholarship Fund

Our Lodge was extremely grateful after the Christmas party to receive a generous gift to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund. Nordkap Treasurer Carmen Collins received the donation in the form of stock securities with a market value of about \$12,300. The donor wished to remain anonymous.

Carmen placed the securities in a new account at Fidelity Investments dedicated exclusively as a backup to the scholarship fund to be used as need requires.

Nordkap Counselor Bob Giles points out that “members each year work diligently to replenish the scholarship fund and attempt to ensure that a minimum amount has been secured for our annual scholarship awards. We have fundraising events such as bowling, cookie bakes, and the silent auction. This donation will create a foundation to keep our scholarship fund healthy into the future.”

Coming at the time that it did, Carmen said the anonymous donation was like an unexpected Christmas gift and seemed like a positive endorsement of our members’ own efforts to fund our scholarships. She noted that it would be an important factor going forward in supporting our young people and hopefully building a better world.

Carmen pointed out that gifts are always welcome and that anyone wishing to make their own donation to the scholarship fund should contact her at skicarmen@att.net.

We Wrapped Up November with a Productive Gathering

Great results from our gathering on November 23 at the Swedish Club!

- Our **Cookies for College** fundraiser brought in \$132 for the Nordkap Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all who baked goodies to donate and to those who purchased beautiful cookies at the bargain rate of \$5 per dozen!
- President Haley Jarasz lent her expertise at a **refresher class on making Julekurver** (Norwegian heart-shaped baskets).
- We **elected officers** for 2026.
- We enjoyed **fellowship over a meal** of ham and rommegrøt (the traditional Norwegian porridge or cream pudding) with lingonberry jam.



Kate Zawick, left, and Abby Olsen show off kransekake cookies made by Derrick Hendricks.



Refresher course in making paper hearts taught by Haley Jarasz, second row on the right.

Nordkap's Meatball Dinner a Hit at Scandinavian Market

The Scandinavian Holiday Market at the Finnish Centre on November 8 brought out hundreds of hungry shoppers for our traditional dinner of meatballs, boiled potatoes, red cabbage, pickled cucumber salad, and crisp rye crackers.

Customers also crowded our Norwegian import table to sample and buy glögg--along with Norwegian cheese, tinned fish, Freia chocolate bars, and other items.

The drawing for our basket of Norwegian goods was won by Harry and Nancy Salisbury.

Many thanks to Heather Vingsness for chairing Nordkap's efforts--and thanks to all our volunteers who cooked, sold, and served food and handled sales and samples at our import table.



Left to right, Top Row: pickled cucumbers with Bob Giles (who made them), Nancy and Harry Salisbury who won the drawing, and Chair Heather Vingsnes. Bottom Row: crowds stream into the market and Olivia Vaal offers samples of glögg.

Kransekake Cooking Class by Mary Morehead

Who doesn't like kransekake! Since it was close to Christmas, Carol Jehle, Derrick Hendricks along with Roy and Dee Marvel were up to the task. We got together on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at Mary Morehead's house to make kransekake from scratch. We had so much fun rolling the dough to form circles and decorating the rings with icing. Everyone took home two kransekaker each. What a way to get into the Christmas spirit!



Carol couldn't resist licking the dough!



Carol, Roy and Derrick were rolling the dough.



Derrick (mastermind at work) was decorating his kransekake with icing.



Dee decorating her kransekake diligently.



Carol took this decorating seriously.



Mary was so proud of their finished products. They all look great and delicious.

In Memoriam: We sadly note the passing of two Golden Members of Sons of Norway.

Donald Ted Wang, 83, formerly of Shelby Township, Michigan, died on October 4, 2025, in Rockford, Illinois, after a brief illness. Don joined Samhold Lodge in 1992 but transitioned to Nordkap in 2020 when Samhold merged with Nordkap. He worked many years as a computer operator, analyst, and systems security officer. A confirmed bachelor, he served in the U.S. Air Force in Germany from 1967 to 1971. He had an interest in history and was the family historian, tracing Norwegian and Danish ancestry back to early years in Norway and Denmark. Don is remembered as “an incurable punster,” an uncle, brother, and man of generosity and kindness.



Constance Pike of Commerce Township, Michigan, died on March 30, 2025, at the age of 82. Connie was married for 55 years to the late Thomas Robert Pike and was the mother of Laura Lee (David Brown) Pike and the late Jeffrey Pike. She was a Nordkap member for 65 years. Connie was passionate about walking her dog Jake, practicing Yoga, and caring for others. She was active in her church and, along with her husband Tom, she enjoyed Corvette shows in Kentucky and local dog shows. They had a home in Northern Michigan where they enjoyed the time to recharge, boat, and visit with friends.



To honor the memory of Donald and Constance, Nordkap is donating \$150 to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund. We also thank **Ted Redilla** and his wife Carrie Sills for expressing their appreciation for the \$75 Nordkap donated to the scholarship fund in honor of Ted's late mother, **Nancy Redilla**.

**NORDKAP LODGE 5-378
C/O LOUISE GILES
BOX 1198
ROYAL OAK, MI 48068**