



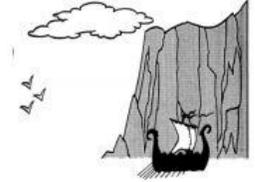
# Nordkapen

**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, February 22, 3 – 6 p.m.**  
**Members Gathering**  
**The Swedish Club**  
**22398 Ruth Street**  
**Farmington Hills, Michigan**

**Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**  
**Syttende Mai**  
**Norwegian Constitution Day**  
**The Swedish Club**

**Tuesday, June 23, 6-9 p.m.**  
**Midsummer**  
**The Swedish Club**

**Sunday, September 13, 1 p.m.**  
**Steak & Corn Roast**  
**The Swedish Club**

### 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/>

February/March 2026

Volume 96 Issue 2

## **Plans for February May Strike a Familiar Note**

If plans for our February 22 members gathering sound familiar, there's a good reason. We'll be presenting the program we'd intended for January 25—before that gathering was canceled due to very adverse weather conditions.

So, in February now, our favorite Nordkap chef, Dennis Flessland, will be cooking up a **delicious meatball dinner** with complementary sides, plus a dessert prepared by President Haley Jarasz. A donation of \$10 is requested for the meal.

Then, we'll offer a **rosemaling “show and tell”** and ask each member who brings a rosemaling piece to speak about that item.

And if you missed our silent auction at the Christmas party in December, not to worry: We'll be offering a **second-chance auction** at our February gathering. You'll be able to purchase some special items that remain, including Norwegian pewter—so interesting it's hard to believe it didn't sell.

Our new **Nordkap officers will also be installed.** Please come out to cheer on these brave souls who've volunteered to lead our lodge into 2026!.

Last, but not least, we'll be **electing delegates** to represent Nordkap at the Fifth District Convention in Wisconsin in August. If you want to seek election as a delegate, the February gathering is the place to declare your candidacy. If you want to run but can't make the meeting, ask a fellow member to nominate you and present the reasons you would make a good delegate. (See the article with details about the convention on page 3.)

**Meanwhile, we hope to see you at the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills from 3-6 p.m. on Sunday, February 22. Please bring your favorite rosemaling item to show and tell.**

## Gratulerer med Dagen!



### February Birthdays:

Wyatt Boman, Kevin Duffy, Bill Edwards, Dennis Flessland, Janet Flessland, Louise Giles, Sven Hahr, Malgorzata Hoff, Emma Jehle, Gerald Allen Jehle, Cynthia Keech, Steven Keech, Judith Kirsch, Erik Lundberg, Magda Pecsénye, Kelsie Pung, Richard Sturgeon, Yana Thompson

### March Birthdays:

Miriam Amundsen, Karen Frelinghuysen, Robert French, Lilje Gronstad, Sonja Gronstad, Tim Miller, Barry Rabe, Dana Runestad, Phyllis Skora

## Sunshine Report

We extend condolences to Erik Duus and Kristin Duus and their daughters, Charlotte and Lolly, on the death of Kristin's father, **Joseph Stanley Martin** of St. Clair Shores who died on January 16, 2026, at the age of 81. A native of Windsor, Ontario, Joe was a 1962 graduate of Cass Technical High. He built an illustrious career in sales and was named by Crain's Detroit Business as Distinguished Sales and Marketing Professional in the mid-1990s.

Joe played hockey in his youth and coached and reffed local youth hockey in the 1970s. Later he served as a professional hockey referee in the National Hockey League. See the full obituary that Kristin wrote at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/clinton-township-mi/joseph-martin-12715408>



**Joseph Martin**  
(family photo)

## **CANCELED: Nordkap Ski Outing on February 21**

**Sadly, the weather has not cooperated** with our plans to hold a cross-country ski outing at Huron Meadows Metropark in Brighton on Saturday, February 21. The event is canceled.

The weather forecast for the week before our planned ski event shows high temperatures mostly in the upper 40s and low 50s, meaning whatever snow is left then will be melting. Adding insult to injury, rain is forecast for Wednesday and Friday!

**So there will be no Nordkap skiing** in Brighton on Saturday, the 21st of February, and no meet-up afterward in Brighton for a brew.

## **Free Norwegian Classes Offered on Zoom**

The Cultural Director of another Sons of Norway Lodge has offered to teach a Norwegian language class to Nordkap members free of charge via Zoom videoconferencing.

**The director, Elizabeth Kraatz**, has been teaching the classes to members of her lodge, Askeladden Lodge 5-610, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. When she learned of Nordkap's trying to find a Norwegian language teacher, she kindly volunteered to lead a Zoom language class for us at no charge, possibly every 2nd and 4th Thursday evening from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. with some exceptions to the dates. The first classes are now scheduled for:

- March 12th and 26th
- April 9th and 23rd
- May 14th and 21st
- June 11th and 18th

**Interested students should consider buying the “Sett i Gang” textbook.** It can be purchased on Amazon for \$62.99. Some students in Nordkap's former Norwegian classes might still have the book and be able to use it.

Elizabeth also suggested opening the evening Zoom classes to Askeladden members as well.

**If you are interested in joining a Zoom class in Norwegian, please contact Mary Morehead at [mmor7725@gmail.com](mailto:mmor7725@gmail.com) . She will forward the Zoom link to Nordkap's students in advance of the class.**

## ***Consider Becoming a Delegate to the 5th District Convention in Wisconsin***

**Nordkap will be electing three delegates** to attend the Sons of Norway District 5 Lodge Meeting and Convention scheduled August 2-6, 2026, in Stoughton, Wisconsin.

Three alternate delegates will also be chosen to serve only if the elected delegates can't make it.

### **Why two names for the gathering?**

The District Lodge Meeting is the business part of the convention week. It includes the board meeting, District convention committees, and the two-day business session.

The District Convention is the "fun" part of the convention -- workshops, classes, field trips, banquet, social times, silent auction, cultural arts display, and other activities. There will be classes, President's Reception, Day-on-the-Prairie trip, and other activities on Sunday (starting in the afternoon) and Monday for those wanting to participate

Delegates don't have to be there the first few days unless they want to participate in those activities or have a role that requires them to be there by Tuesday.

The first official business and seating of the delegates is Wednesday morning, and all delegates need to be in all sessions Wednesday and Thursday.

### **What do you as a delegate do?**

- Represent and speak on behalf of our lodge on District business, resolutions, proposed changes
- Vote in the business session
- Review and act on the 2028 Convention Host Bids
- May be asked to serve as a marshal, greeter, or in another role during the meeting
- Accept any recognition or awards made to our lodge
- Attend all delegate sessions and vote on behalf of our lodge
- May serve on a committee if asked to by the District President
- Learn about Sons of Norway by attending workshops, viewing displays, and visiting with other members
- Bring back many ideas, activities and enthusiasm that will benefit our lodge
- Report to our lodge about what you learned, the business conducted, and elections held at the convention
- Have a wonderful time and go home ready to carry out the mission of Sons of Norway!

**Note: Any Nordkap member who isn't a delegate but still wants to attend the convention can do so simply as a self-paying attendee.** Attendees may observe the convention and take part in activities, classes, and presentations available for all.

More information about the convention will be offered in the future on the Fifth District website at <https://sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/> .



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

**At the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan,** Norway is once again near the top of the medal count. And it's exciting to see either red-white-and-blue flag on the podium. One of the most exciting moments so far was in cross-country skiing, when Norway's superstar Johannes Høsflot Klæbo went head-to-head with American skier Ben Ogden in the 10k sprint. Klæbo took gold, and Ogden took silver: the USA's first Olympic cross-country medal in 50 years! That's the kind of Olympic moment that feels personal for us in Sons of Norway.

Beyond the medal count, the Norwegian and U.S. ski jumping teams worked together to prepare for the Olympics. They shared training programs and coaches in Trondheim in 2025.

**In Michigan, we also have some training facilities.** The U.S. Olympic Education Center in Marquette trains athletes; the Muskegon Sports Park offers luge; and local rinks like the Ann Arbor Ice Cube develop ice dancers.

But we have a much larger population than Norway. How does a country of 5 million people have such world-class facilities and produce so many Olympic athletes?

The answer is something most of us don't think about: Norway's lottery system! Norsk Tipping sends 64% of its revenue to sports programs. \$400 million a year goes to local Norwegian clubs, youth programs, coaches, and facilities. Even everyday lottery players can designate a specific sports club to support.

**That means any child in any small Norwegian town can affordably play a sport.** And Olympic champions often start at a neighborhood club run by volunteers. Norway's Olympic success is because of a national system that encourages almost every child to get outside and try.

As we watch the Olympic Games, it's inspiring to see Norway and the United States pushing each other to be better. And it's worth remembering that behind every medal is a community.

**Stay warm,**

**Haley**

## ***TBD: Plans for a Bowling Fundraiser Still in Development***

We're still hoping to schedule a bowling fundraiser for our Nordkap Scholarship Fund. In the past, this fun event brought out families, young and old, for a day of bowling and pizza. Most importantly, it raised hundreds of dollars for Nordkap scholarships.

**We're still considering perspective dates for a 2026 event.** We'll keep you posted either via email or this newsletter when we have more to announce.



***Haley Jarasz***

## ***Bad Weather Not a Problem for Readers in Nordkap Book Club***

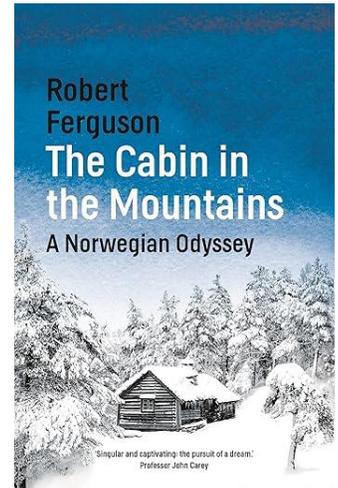
Bad weather doesn't stop our Nordkap Book Club. In fact, stormy weather invites us to snuggle up with a book—especially the books we read about Norway or those written by Norwegian authors.

**This past month our book club members met** on Zoom to discuss the third book in our current series of five, *The Cabin in the Mountains* by Robert Ferguson. Ferguson is a Brit by birth, but he's lived in Norway since 1983, married a Norwegian woman, and translated numerous books by Norwegian writers into English, including *Norwegian Wood* by Lars Mytting, which won the Bookseller prize for Non-Fiction Book of the Year in 2016.

As a native-born outsider, Ferguson seemed the perfect person to explore and explain the traditional lure Norwegians feel for having a simple (or, today, not-so-simple) cabin in the mountains—the *hytte* that seems to play such a crucial role in Norwegian national identity.

**Our readers found** the author's frequent digressions into non-related topics interesting, but also sometimes annoying and, frankly, skippable. Overall, though, book club members who read *The Cabin in the Mountains* felt they learned a lot and gained a somewhat better understanding of the unique culture of Norway.

**The next book the club will read and discuss is the detective novel *Tourist Season* by Carl Hiaason, with our Zoom conference set for 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 1.**



## ***Nordkap Supports the Barnebirkie in Hayward, Wisconsin***

**Each February**, our Fifth District Sons of Norway supports the Barnebirkie (children's ski tour) in Hayward, Wisconsin. This non-competitive ski event for youngsters between the ages 3 and 13 gets kids excited to be outside, on skis, and having fun.

This year's Barnebirkie is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, and we hope they have more snow than we do for their event!

### **District 5 supports the Barnebirkie with cookies.**

Each year they send volunteers with cars loaded with cookies to hand out in Hayward to very hungry youngsters. It's always an extremely popular event with the kids and their parents.

The District gets its cookies from lodge members who make them. Lodges that don't supply cookies can help the Barnebirkie with a monetary donation. This year, as we've done in the past, Nordkap Lodge sent the District a \$50 donation to support this worthy effort.



***District Cookie Tent at a past Barnebirkie (Darlene Arneson photo)***

## **News Briefs of Note for Nordkap Members**

### ***Norsk Høstfest Festival Announces Permanent Closure after 2025***

The Board of Directors of Norsk Høstfest Association announced on January 29, 2026, that the annual Norsk Høstfest festival--long recognized as North America's largest Scandinavian festival--would no longer continue after the conclusion of the 2025 event.

**For more than four decades**, Norsk Høstfest brought millions of attendees to Minot, North Dakota, to celebrate Nordic culture through community, music, art, food, and education. The festival was founded in 1978 by the late Chester Reiten and a group of friends who shared his interest in celebrating their Nordic heritage.



**Rising costs and declining attendance** led to the decision to end the historic Scandinavian tradition. “In recent years, the festival has faced significant increases in the cost of nationally recognized performers, as well as insurance, facilities, labor, and logistics,” said festival leadership. “At the same time, attendance levels have not rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, creating ongoing financial challenges that cannot be responsibly overcome.”

### ***Remember the Detroit Symphony's Northern Lights Festival***

As reported in the January issue of this newsletter, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra is offering a two-week music festival in April highlighting the work of Nordic composers and performers.

**At Detroit's Orchestra Hall**, the Northern Lights Festival 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.

The festival offers a rare opportunity to take in the master works of such composers as Norway's Edvard Grieg and Finland's Jean Sibelius, among others. Tickets start at just \$20.95 and can be purchased online at [dso.org](https://dso.org).



***Tabita Berglund***

**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.

### ***Conductor with Swedish and Norwegian roots at Detroit Opera***

The Detroit Opera's production of *The Handmaid's Tale*, running March 1-7, will mark the Detroit Opera premiere of conductor, Marit Strindlund, coming to Detroit from Sweden. Strindlund shares both Swedish and Norwegian heritage and is one of the foremost operatic conductors in Europe.

**More information and ticket sales** can be found on the opera house's website at <https://detroitopera.org/>.

## ***Learn the Love Story of Harald and Sonja in ‘The Commoner’***

**If you’re looking for an interesting video** about Norway to watch at home, we would strongly recommend *The Commoner*.

This four-part video production tells of the nine years that Norwegian Crown Prince Harald and the commoner, Sonja Haraldsen, fought for their right to marry, while the decision rested with Harald’s father, King Olav. The Norwegian constitution barred Harald from marrying without royal consent, risking the monarchy’s collapse. Defying tradition, the couple stood against the royal court, government, and press—all for love.

**No worry about spoilers here**--we all know how this story came out!

Nevertheless, *The Commoner* is fascinating and very touching to watch. You can see it on Amazon Prime Video. It’s available for streaming via subscription, rental, or purchase, often under the title [\*Harald og Sonja\*](#).



## ***Michigan Nordic Fire Festival Set for Last Weekend in February***

The Michigan Nordic Fire Festival returns to Charlotte Michigan for the last weekend of February 2026--February 27-March 1.

**The Festival was created in 2016** to provide an opportunity to get outside, throw spears, and try some of the wonderful beers and meads produced in the area. It describes itself as “a place where people can gather around the fire, hear the drums, smell the smoke, and celebrate the spirit of the North with family, friends, and fellow festival-goers.”

### **It also features:**

- \* Live music inspired by Nordic and folk traditions
- \* Authentic Viking encampments & historical displays
- \* Food vendors serving hearty fare and festival favorites
- \* Crafting demonstrations from skilled artisans
- \* An artisan market featuring handmade goods and wares
- \* Kids activities with games, crafts, and interactive fun



The Festival will be held at the Eaton County Fairgrounds at 1025 Cochran Ave, Charlotte, MI 48813. Charlotte is about 20 miles southwest of downtown Lansing. For details see <https://www.michigannordicfirefestival.com/> .

## ***An Early Reminder: Applications for Scholarships Are Due June 30***

College-bound students who wish to win a Nordkap scholarship must apply by June 30, so we're hoping all applicants are getting in gear to apply. Last year our lodge awarded \$1,000 scholarships to three students who applied and met all requirements. Candidates may qualify up to 4 times for this scholarship.

### **To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must:**

- Be a lodge member (for a minimum of 1 year prior to scholarship application) or child/grandchild of a person who's been a lodge member for a minimum of 1 year prior to scholarship application
- Be 17-23 years of age
- Be working towards a bachelor's or associate degree from an accredited educational institution
- Be in good standing at school, having a GPA of 2.0 or better
- Include two letters of recommendation written within the last year.



### **Application forms and complete details are available at:**

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

Scholarship Chair Carmen Collins is ready to receive applications--but she needs them by the **deadline of June 30**. Direct any questions to Carmen at [skicarmen@att.net](mailto:skicarmen@att.net).

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