



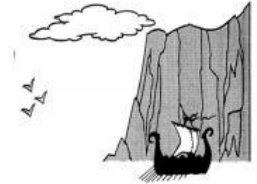
Nordkapen

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

Ice Curling, April 18, 3 p.m.
The Hub
44325 W 12 Mile Rd, Novi

Syttende Mai
Norwegian Constitution Day
Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
The Swedish Club
22398 Ruth Street
Farmington Hills, Mi.

Midsummer
Tuesday, June 23, 6-9 p.m.
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/>

April/May 2026

Volume 96 Issue 3

Try Ice Curling April 18 with Nordkap

You're invited to join other Nordkap members at a special social event on Saturday, April 18th, at 3 p.m.

We will be gathering at a commercial establishment called the Hub Stadium and Restaurant in Novi to try our hands at Ice Curling, a sport you may have seen in the recent Winter Olympic Games in Italy.



Our event is just for fun—no Olympic medals involved!

To add to the fun, there's a bar where you can buy drinks and food and where you can watch our members try their luck on the ice.

Nordkap President Haley Jarasz has reserved one curling lane which will accommodate 8 players. The cost to curl for one hour is \$25 per person. Spectators are free.

Players must be at least 12 years of age before 7:00 p.m. and 18+ after 7:00 p.m. Closed-toe shoes are required. The Hub requests that curlers arrive 10–15 minutes early to ensure they receive their full activity time.

Anyone who wants to curl should notify Haley in advance so she can have enough lanes reserved for our players. Contact Haley at (906) 231-9246. Texting at that number is often the best way to reach her.

The Hub Stadium is at 44325 W 12 Mile Rd, Novi 48377.

See you there by at least 2:45 p.m. on April 18!

Gratulerer med Dagen!



God påske!

April Birthdays:

Catie Hart, Laura Howe, Duane Kirking, Annette Lundberg, Margarita Thompson, Mary Tornquist, Wade Tornquist

May Birthdays:

Anton Anderssen, Arne Borgnes, Sarah Duffy, Charlotte Duus, Myrtle Ebert, Thomas French, Margaret Haines-Hahr, Joseph Hart, Marilyn Kirking, Norman Kirsch, Kathleen Hanlon-Lundberg, Joseph Markusen, Gail Ritchie, Lynn Rose, Susan Schotts, P. J. Smith, Jennifer Vingsness

Sunshine Report

We extend condolences to member **Cathy Johnson** on the death of her mom, **Betty Jean Chalmers**, on February 9 at the age of 95.

Betty was born in Hazel Park and graduated from Hazel Park High School. Betty married Arvid Johnson in 1952 and they had three children, Cathy and a sister and brother. Some years after Betty and Arvid divorced, she married Richard Chalmers. Both husbands preceded her in death.

Over her many years, Betty worked successively for Detroit Edison, Walled Lake Western High School, and Oakland County Courthouse Friend of the Court, where she retired.

Cathy noted her mom's "very long and good life" and that she "went peacefully-- so very happy about that."



Betty Jean Chalmers
(family photo)

Reception to Cap Off Northern Lights Festival

Nordkap members attending the Sunday, April 19, Detroit Symphony Orchestra concert are invited to attend a post-concert reception at Detroit's Orchestra Hall.

The reception is planned to celebrate the close of the Northern Lights Festival and will include Guest Conductor Tabita Berglund, Detroit Symphony President and CEO Erik Rönmark, and members of the Nordic community.

That afternoon's concert begins at 3:00 p.m. Immediately following the program, the reception starts in the Herman & Sharon Frankel Donor Lounge.

An advance RSVP is required to attend. Please RSVP for the reception by April 12 clicking here [Google Form](#) or visit bit.ly/NorthernLightsReception.

Concert tickets are required for attendance and may be reserved online at DSO.org. Use promo code NORTHERN for \$10 off your order.



Tabita Berglund

Sons of Norway District 5 Leadership Call Sunday, April 12, 7 p.m. EST

Any District 5 Lodge officers, leaders or members are welcome to join 5th District Leaders on a Leadership Call on Sunday, April 12, at 7 p.m. EST.



**SONS OF
NORWAY**

District 5

The SN District 5 Board will share updates in their respective areas, discuss current topics the Board covered at the spring Board meeting, and discuss questions that participants have. They will have a convention update, discuss the nominating committee process and District Board elections, and other convention/District Lodge Meeting related items.

Call-in information:

Darlene Arneson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SN District 5 Leadership Meeting

Call Time: Apr 12, 2026, 7 p.m. Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88976156464>

Meeting ID: 889 7615 6464

Join us to Celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day Saturday, May 16!

On Saturday, May 16th, we'll observe Norway's biggest holiday, Syttende Mai, with a festive parade, music, games, and picnic foods at the Swedish Club. Help us celebrate the important day that Norway's Constitution was signed in Eidsvold, Norway, in 1814.

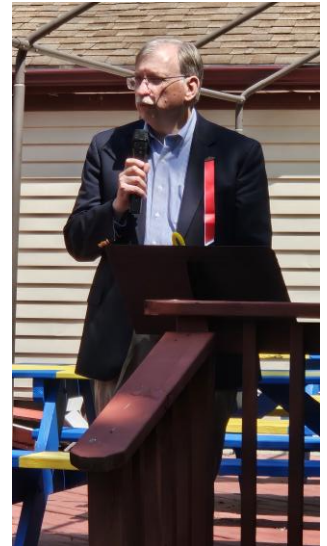
The celebration begins at 11 a.m. at the Swedish Club, 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills, with Norwegian food imports and gift items for sale. The parade around the clubhouse starts at 11:30 a.m. followed by a talk by the Honorary Consul from Norway to Michigan, Dennis Flessland.

We'll fly the Norwegian flag, sing the Norwegian national anthem, turn out in bunads, and enjoy Scandinavian music, picnic foods, and Norwegian heart waffles. Then we'll have the games for young and old.

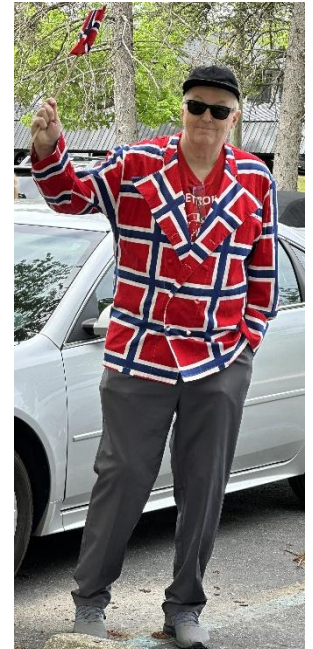
A complimentary dessert and coffee buffet will follow the games.

Admission is \$5 payable at the door. Children 5 years of age and younger are free. This includes pølse (hot dogs), chips, soft drinks, Norwegian heart waffles with jam and sour cream, and desserts.

Please consider bringing a favorite Norwegian dessert to share at the dessert buffet. Events will conclude by 3 p.m.



Dennis Flessland



All photos from previous Nordkap Constitution Day celebrations



2026 officers (lt. to rt.): Editor & Publicity Director Louise Giles, Treasurer & Scholarship Director Carmen Collins, Co-Store Director Dennis Flessland, Cultural Director Karen Herche, Secretary Mary Morehead, Social Director & Greeter Sandra Miller, Foundation Director Derrick Hendricks, Secretary & Sunshine Director Carol Jehle, Counselor Bob Giles, and President Haley Jarasz.

Our February Gathering Was Chock-Full of Good Things:

- Dennis Flessland did the honors as chef, serving tasty meatballs, boiled potatoes, red cabbage, and peas and carrots, followed by Haley Jarasz's brownies for dessert.
- Haley was installed as president by Counselor Bob Giles, then she swore in other officers for 2026.
- Delegates for the Sons of Norway 5th District Convention were elected. (See next page.)
- A "second-chance auction" of items that didn't sell at Christmas raised an additional \$80 for the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.
- And the show-and-tell of favorite Rosemaling items provided great entertainment to end the evening.



Rosemaling items shown (lt. to rt.) by Mary Morehead, Bob Giles, Eli Steyskal, and Karen Herche.

Nordkap Delegates Elected for 5th District Convention in Wisconsin

Also at Nordkap's February gathering, three delegates and three alternates were elected to represent us at the 5th District Convention scheduled for Stoughton, Wisconsin, on August 2-7, 2026. They are as follows: **Delegates:** Haley Jarasz, Sandra Miller, and Mary Morehead. **Alternates** (to be named a delegate in the following order if an elected delegate cannot serve): Eli Steyskal, Dennis Flessland, and Colin Miller.

Each delegate will receive a Nordkap stipend of \$800 to help cover travel and other expenses at the convention.

We're Moving Forward to Ensure the Future of Nordkap Lodge

What do you do to make sure Nordkap Lodge continues to exist when so many fraternal organizations have gone dark and disbanded? You might check with Heather Vingsness for the answer.

Heather didn't hesitate to volunteer when Carmen Collins asked for someone to serve as her backup and learn her duties as lodge treasurer.

Heather agreed to work with Carmen to add her name, along with Carmen's, on our new Fidelity Scholarship Fund account and our accounts at DFCU Financial (formerly Dearborn Federal Credit Union). Heather's name will replace those of Louise Giles and Carol Jehle, who are on the DFCU accounts--and who support the change.



Heather Vingsness

Serving as Carmen's shadow and with her name on lodge accounts, Heather would be able to take action in an emergency should Carmen need to take a pause or step down. (Thankfully, we don't anticipate that happening, but we need to be prepared!)

And Heather isn't done looking out for the future of Nordkap Lodge. She currently serves as vice president, yet she quickly answered the call for someone to understudy Carmen in her role chairing our silent auction.

The silent auction is a major fundraiser for the Nordkap Scholarship Fund. It was started in 1997 by members Louise Giles and the late Louise Harrison and has continued virtually every year since as a popular attraction at the lodge's Christmas parties. It's raised countless thousands of dollars for Nordkap scholarships. Louise and her husband, Bob Giles, have been involved with all the auctions and continue working on them with Carmen. Carol Jehle was also involved for many years. Carmen herself has nine years with our silent auction experience.

Now is the time to share that experience with other Nordkap members so the auction can continue for years to come. We're grateful to Heather for stepping forward, but it takes many hands to run an auction. We need others to learn the procedures. Please contact Carmen Collins today and offer your name as an auction intern. We also thank those who've come forward in recent years to accept lodge leadership. They include Haley and Mike Jarasz, Sandra Miller, Mary Morehead, Eli Steyskal, Yana and David Thompson, and Natalie Vaal--joining the other Nordkap officers.

A Letter from President Haley Jarasz:

With Easter just around the corner next week, I've been hitting up my local library in preparation for one of my favorite traditions: a good Nordic crime novel. In Norway (and across Scandinavia), Easter has long been associated with crime fiction. There's something about the quiet days of Spring Break or a long Easter vacation that pairs perfectly with noir crime fiction. All the rain we've been getting also helps get in the mood for a mystery.

If you're looking for something new to add to your Easter reading stack, here are some newer Nordic crime novels available in English that have been getting a lot of attention:

- ***Wolf Hour* by Jo Nesbø** – Unique in its American setting (Minneapolis; the Norwegian title of this book is actually *Minnesota*), this book from a blockbuster bestseller author tracks a vigilante taxidermist seeking revenge with a string of murders.
- ***Son* by Johana Gustawsson** (France) **and Thomas Enger** (Norway) is also unique in that no translation is needed – despite the two authors being from different countries with different native languages, the book was co-written in English. A criminal profiler investigates the murder of teenage girls in a remote cabin and discovers connections to the case for her own missing child.
- ***The Winter Job* by Antti Tuomainen** — Finnish author Tuomainen is known for his comedic writing, and his newest novel is quirky and clever: a 1982 road trip to help a friend move a couch goes awry as the van is pursued by criminals intent on getting their hands on that antique sofa.

If you prefer your books to be on TV, on March 26 Netflix premiered the new Detective Hole series based on Jo Nesbø's Harry Hole novels.* Maybe start a nice fire in your fireplace before clicking "play" for some cozy Spring Break atmosphere. For help, the lumberjacks among us can reference Lars Mytting's non-fiction best-seller ***Norwegian Wood: chopping, stacking, and drying wood the Scandinavian way.***

On an even cozier (and less murderous!) note, I recently took a Norwegian waffle-making class online at the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah. Delicious waffles felt like a perfect counterbalance to all that Nordic crime.

I hope you find a little Scandinavian inspiration in the week ahead. God påske—and happy reading!

Haley



Haley Jarasz



* ***Editor's Note:*** This Netflix series is rated TV-MA (mature audiences only) with violence, sex, nudity, sexual violence, language, gore, and smoking.

Restoration Continues at Historic Norwegian Church in the U.P.

Long-time Nordkap members will remember our involvement in the restoration of the historic Norwegian Lutheran Church in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The once-beautiful church at 338 7th Street in Calumet, Michigan, was built in 1898 to serve an immigrant population from Norway. Norwegians from northern Norway first came to Calumet in 1865 to work in the area's booming copper mines. The church remained a dynamic, functioning institution through the 1940s, but then the copper mines declined, and the area's population dropped.



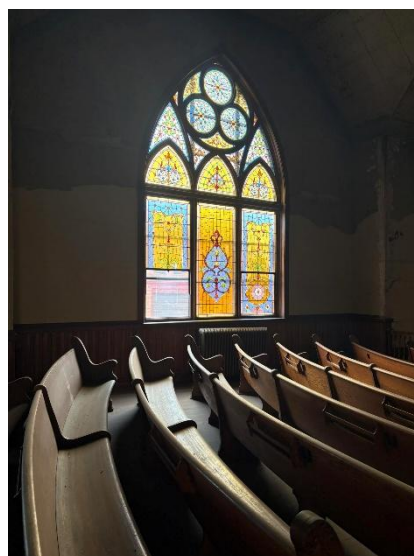
The historic structure was in great need of repair by the mid-1980s and had become a target for vandals. It was being considered for demolition by the Calumet Village Council. However, a small group of remaining congregation members succeeded in purchasing the property and preventing its demolition. Through further volunteer efforts, stabilization and repairs to the structure began in earnest in 1991.

Susan Rokicki of Calumet led the early restoration efforts. She served as the guest speaker at Nordkap's 75th anniversary banquet in Livonia, Michigan, in October 2004. Susan detailed the heroic efforts to save the church. Then Nordkap passed a paint bucket for donations to help restore the building.

Sadly, Susan passed away a few years ago, but the restoration continues to the present day under the leadership of the Norwegian Lutheran Church Historical Society. The Society shared these photos of its recent improvements.



Protective particle board removed from one of the stained glass windows.



Church interior with uncovered window.



Alter with matching candelabrums: one found under the alter, the second returned from a woman who'd received it as a gift.

The church is open for tours beginning Memorial Day weekend in 2026 and continues opening on Saturdays, or upon request, through the summer.

Hvem Liker Vel Ikke Norsk Potet og Kjøttbollesuppe!

(Who doesn't like Norwegian Potato and Meatball Soup!)

Our cooks loved making and eating this soup. However, everyone realized that it was very time consuming to make around 200 very small meatballs! But it was well worth the time once you sat down and enjoyed a bowl. Um! Um! Good! One pot of the meatballs was made from beef. The other meatballs were vegetarian. The best of both worlds.
—By Mary Morehead



Names from left to right: Derrick Hendricks, Carol Jehle, Eli Steyskal, Mary Morehead, Roy and Dee Marvel



Doesn't this soup look delicious!



Peeling Potatoes & Veggies



Peeling Potatoes & Veggies



Blending Veggies for Meatballs



Making Beef Meatballs



Making Vegetarian Meatballs

Det er Kaldt Ute, så det er en Perfekt Dag for å Lage Blomkålsuppe og Boller

(It's Cold Outside, so it's a Perfect Day to Make Cauliflower Soup and Buns)

This is what our Cooking Class made on Saturday, March 21, 2026, and it was hours of FUN!!
Of course, we always eat what we make and take some home to enjoy it again. —By Mary Morehead



Names from left to right: Derrick Hendricks, Eli Steyskal, Carol Jehle, Mary Morehead, Roy and Dee Marvel



Kneading the bun dough



The dough is ready



The buns are done! YUMMY



Playing with the cauliflower



Having fun cutting up



Soup is done. Let's EAT!

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C/O LOUISE GILES
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