



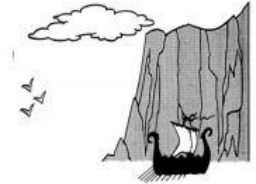
Nordkapen

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, September 13, 1 p.m.
Steak & Corn Roast
The Swedish Club
22398 Ruth Street
Farmington Hills, Michigan

Sunday, October 25, 4 - 7 p.m.
The Swedish Club

Sunday, November 22, 3 - 6 p.m.
The Swedish Club

Saturday, December 5, 12:30 p.m.
Nordkap Christmas Party
The Kilgour Scottish Centre
2363 Rochester Road
Troy, 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>

September 2026

Volume 96 Issue 5

Nordkap Mourns the Passing of King Harald V



We Host Steak & Corn Roast September 13

Fall will soon be in the air, and so will that aroma of steaks roasting on the grill at the Swedish Club.

That will be the setting at on Sunday, September 13, when Nordkap once again hosts the Steak & Corn Roast for the Swedes.

Our Nordkap Lodge hosts this event each year to thank the Swedes for renting us their clubhouse and grounds for our activities throughout the year. Nordkap members prepare and serve the meal under the direction of Mike and Haley Jarasz, with Mike serving as expert chef behind the grill.

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 early on September 13 to help out at the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street, Farmington Hills.

Dinner will be served at 1 p.m.-- complete with New York strip steak, roasted corn, cole slaw, fresh tomatoes, garlic bread, dessert, and coffee-- offered for the great price of \$20 for adults, \$10 for children.



Organizers Mike and Haley Jarasz with steak dinner

Gratulerer med Dagen!



September Birthdays:

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

Sunshine Report



Sadly, several Nordkap members have been battling cancer, but we have good news to share:

Russ Simms has made great progress in dealing with Merkel cell carcinoma, a rare type of skin cancer. Radiation treatments were successful, as no Merkel cell was found in his last CAT scan.

Lynn Herche, who's been dealing with lung cancer, recently finished radiation treatments and will soon complete chemotherapy for the disease. He reports being much encouraged, as the cancer has shrunk considerably.

Carol Jehle's been getting radiation three times a week for two skin cancer spots (one was basal cell cancer, the other was squamous cell), but happily she'll complete those treatments in September.

Free Fall Norwegian Classes Offered on Zoom

Elizabeth Kraatz, Cultural Director of Askeladden Lodge in Kalamazoo, has offered to teach fall Norwegian language classes to Nordkap members free of charge via Zoom videoconferencing. The classes will include some Askeladden members as well.

The fall classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The classes are scheduled as follows:

- September 24th
- October 8th
- October 22nd
- November 12th

It's suggested that interested students should purchase 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.

Winter classes will be scheduled in November or December.

If you are interested in joining a Zoom class in Norwegian, please contact Mary Morehead at mmor7725@gmail.com. She will forward the Zoom link to Nordkap's students before the class.

Attend Our Gatherings—You Could Be a Winner!

There's always a good reason to come to a Nordkap gathering—good food, good company, celebration of our shared Norwegian heritage, to name just a few. Starting with our October 25 gathering, you'll have another reason to turn out.

All members in attendance will be eligible to participate in a free drawing for a special prize, just for being there. They'll receive a ticket for the drawing when they check in. All of the prizes--as seen in the photo--relate to Norway, its history, or culture.

So come on out, bring your family, or friends--especially those who might be interested in joining our lodge. You could be a winner!

Photo by Mary Morehead





Midsummer: We Celebrate One of the Longest Days in the Year

The evening of Tuesday, June 23, provided the perfect weather for us to celebrate Midsummer, or “Sankthansaften”—the eve of the birthday of St. John the Baptist. We built our traditional bonfire on the grounds of the Swedish Club, roasted hot dogs and s’mores, and enjoyed sunlight that didn’t fade until well after 9 p.m.

There was plenty of time for President Haley Vingsness to lead us in the Viking walk before dinner, retrieving Norwegian flags that served to mark our path. There was time after dinner to re-enact our traditional play about the scary things Norwegians formerly feared about pagan spirits on Midsummer Eve. And time for teams to compete in Kubb, the Scandinavian lawn game played with wooden blocks.

Many thanks to Mary Morehead for organizing the food, to the volunteers who brought side dishes and desserts, and to Mike Jarasz who kept the bonfire blazing until it was time to put it out.



These players (wearing pieces of artificial turf on their heads to identify them as “the dead”) foretold what would happen if evil beings tricked the sun into missing its turn to shorter days. If the sun made a wrong turn, mankind was doomed to perish.



Geir Gronstad makes his throw playing Kubb on the grounds of the Swedish Club as his teammates watch.

Please Bookmark these Norwegian Events for 2026

- **September TBD** – Possible tour of an aquavit distillery
- **September 24** – Online Norwegian languages classes resume on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.; other classes follow on October 8th, October 22nd, and November 12th.
- **October 9th** – National Leif Erikson day
- **October TBD** – Possible Bowling Fundraiser for Nordkap Scholarship Fund
- **October 25** – Nordkap Members Gathering at the Swedish Club, 4 – 7 p.m.:
 - Our delegates report on the Fifth District Convention in Stoughton, Wisconsin, and discuss awards Nordkap won.
 - Scholarship winner Emma Jehle speaks.
 - We announce nominees for Nordkap officers for 2027.
 - Make-your-own pizza! (You don't have to toss yours, like Bob Giles did!)
- **October 31-November 1:** Norwegian native Tabita Berglund conducts Detroit Symphony Orchestra in Algar's *Enigma Variations*, and Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes plays Britten's Piano Concerto. Find details of this and other Tabita Berglund concerts on January 14-16, 2027, and May 28-29, 2027, at <https://www.dso.org/events-and-tickets/calendar>
- **November 14:** Scandinavian Market at the Finnish Center in Farmington Hills, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nordkap makes meatball dinners and sells Norwegian gifts.
- **November 22:** Nordkap Members Gathering at the Swedish Club, 3 – 6 p.m. Make-your-own aquavit demonstration; Christmas cookie fundraiser; election of officers for 2027.
- **December 5 (Saturday)** – Nordkap Christmas Party and silent auction fundraiser, Kilgour Scottish Center in Troy, 12:30 to 4 p.m.
- **December 29 (TBD)** – Possible Happy Hour at Dragonmead Brewery in Warren; they should have Norwegian Christmas beer.



A Letter from President Haley Jarasz:

Nordkap members:

We are incredibly honored to be named the 2024 International Lodge of the Year and 2025 Family Lodge of the Year (District 5)! We received these awards at the District 5 Convention.



International Lodge of the Year is an enormous privilege. There are 400 lodges in this organization. In the Large Lodge category, we're compared to lodges with buildings, and lodges in much bigger cities—Seattle, Minneapolis, New York. We've earned it **twice** in the last 5 years: 2022 and 2024.

These honors belong to all of us. We wouldn't be here without you. Thank you for giving your time, talent, and donations towards our lodge. Special thanks to our tireless Secretary and Membership Secretary, Mary Morehead and Carol Jehle, whose diligent and thoughtful efforts on our application, as well as tracking our Cultural pins and Sports medals, undoubtedly contributed to this award. We appreciate you!

At the Convention, we also learned of big changes to the International Sons of Norway organization. I need to be transparent with you as to what's happening.

Sons of Norway is now partnering with BetterLife Insurance. This is more than just swapping out our insurance provider. Imagine it more as an acquisition, like how Fiat acquired Chrysler. BetterLife acquired Sons of Norway. We are now one of their insurance brands.

Why did this happen? Sons of Norway is a fraternal benefit society (FBS): emphasis on **benefit**. An FBS is essentially a non-profit insurance co-operative. It works like a credit union, but instead of banking, it offers "benefits" -- insurance. We began as an insurance co-operative, back when immigrants were considered uninsurable. Most of our income comes from insurance, not membership dues. The profits from our insurance policies are used to run the international office; for the monthly Viking magazine; to operate our Cultural Skills and Sports Medal programs; and to run summer camps like Masse Moro in Wisconsin.

Unfortunately the economics of independently providing and selling insurance have become unsustainable in recent years, especially after incurring major losses during the COVID-19 pandemic. You've seen this in your rising membership dues. The less profit we get from insurance, the more we have to raise dues to make up for it. The international organization did a lot to try and stabilize its finances, including selling its Minneapolis headquarters, but it wasn't quite enough. This partnership is how Sons of Norway is stabilizing its finances. Three other societies are part of this partnership, giving us the benefit of economies of scale: two Czech groups—ZCBJ (Western Bohemian Fraternal Association) and CSA (Czecho Slovakian Association)—and the Beavers Reserve Fund Fraternity.

What does this mean for us?

On a lodge level: no changes, besides the ability to buy Sons of Norway insurance. Sons of Norway stopped selling insurance in Michigan about 20 years ago. BetterLife changed that, so you may start seeing more insurance advertisements. If you're in the market for life insurance or an annuity, please consider buying it through Sons of Norway to support our organization. *(continued next page)*

(President's letter, continued from previous page)

In the long term, I am optimistic.

I'm optimistic that our dues will stop going up so quickly.

I'm encouraged by their commitment to preserve our organization's name, lodge structure, programs, and International Board of Directors (albeit in an advisory capacity to their Board).

At the District Convention, BetterLife indicated a desire to acquire one to two additional organizations per year. This means more chances for us to learn from other cultural FBSes: How do they balance insurance with social membership? How do they honor their language and culture? What brings in new members?

I'm happy to answer your questions as best as I'm able--or find the person who can. In the meantime, please join me in celebrating all of our accomplishments as we kick off our fall schedule with the Steak & Corn Roast!

Haley

Emma Jehle Wins Nordkap Scholarship for Second Time

The Nordkap Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that **Emerson "Emma" Jehle** was chosen to receive a \$1250 scholarship from the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

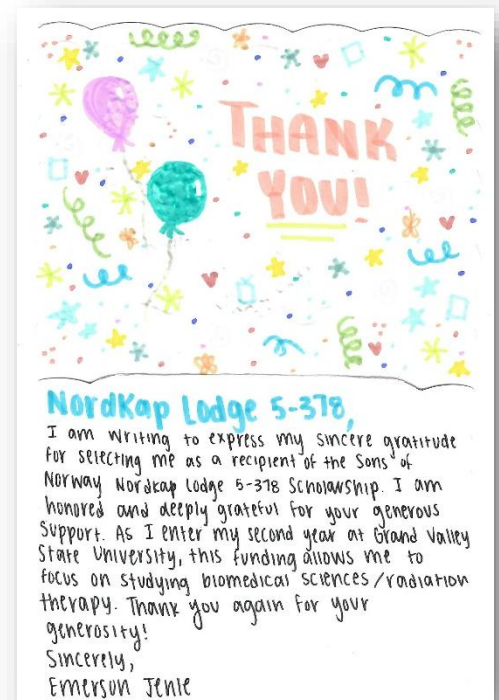
Emma is a rising sophomore at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, and a two-time winner of a Nordkap scholarship. She's the granddaughter of Nordkap Membership Secretary **Carol Jehle** of West Bloomfield and the daughter of Nordkap member **Jerry Jehle** and his wife, Dawn, of Rochester Hills.

Emma has attended Nordkap events and served as a volunteer at the Christmas party. Members who haven't met her will have the chance to do so at our October gathering, where she'll make a brief presentation in connection with an additional scholarship she received from the Sons of Norway Foundation.

Emma expressed her thanks to Nordkap in a colorful note, pictured here.

Nordkap's Scholarship committee consists of Scholarship Director Carmen Collins plus Heather Vingsness and Bob and Louise Giles.

Donations to the fund are always welcome! Questions can be directed to Carmen at skicarmen@att.net.



In Memoriam: Pres Bruning

Sadly, we note the passing of a beloved member of our Nordkap family: Pres Bruning.



Pres and Tove with their troll

Pres passed away on June 10, 2026, at the age of 88. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, he enjoyed an idyllic childhood alongside his two brothers. He pursued his passion for design by studying industrial design at Pratt Institute in New York and later earned his master's degree from Syracuse University.

Pres met his beloved wife, Tove, a Norwegian native and gifted ceramic artist, and together they shared 62 years of marriage. In 1963, they moved to the Detroit area, where Pres built a distinguished career at General Motors. He spent his entire professional life designing vehicles in the company's Advanced Design Studio and was widely recognized for his playful and creative approach to everything he designed.

Pres and Tove used the same playful approach to deal with a 150 year-old ash tree dying from an attack of emerald ash borer in their Royal Oak backyard. They called on an artist to make a troll from the dead tree trunk. Using only a chainsaw and some paint, the artist crafted a friendly troll.

Many will remember Pres as a friend and fellow student in Nordkap's long-running Norwegian Language Classes at the Swedish Club. Along with Tove, he was a major donor to our Christmas silent auctions which raised thousands of dollars for our Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

A lifelong aviation enthusiast, Pres had a deep passion for airplanes and was a highly respected model airplane builder. He approached life with a consistently joyful spirit and was a devoted husband, loving father to their daughter Erika LeBarre, and cherished grandpa to Erika and Matt's daughter, Camille.

To learn more about Pres's playful and creative nature, open this link to see how he contributed outstanding designs for Disney's "World of Motion" and "GM Test Track" displays in Orlando, Florida: <https://www.deansgarage.com/disneys-epcot-gms-world-of-motion-and-pres-bruning/?fbclid=IwdGRzaASYRnRjbGNrBJhGZmV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydgMGYXBwX2lkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTcyOAABHq8Spq6ic5XFFBTURyvw72oOgXwRi9xDnPj2ytUPO54-eWxwuFRF aOYE85s aem PLXA-ICFokt vdSG6I2NqQ>

Norway's New King Haakon VIII

Norway's Crown Prince Haakon, 53, became King Haakon VIII upon the death of his father, King Harald V, who died August 28 at the age of 89. Haakon's wife became Queen Mette-Marit, while his oldest child became Crown Princess Ingrid Alexandra and the heir to the throne.

Norway is expected to mark the transition to a new monarch with a series of formal but relatively modest ceremonies, reflecting the traditionally low-key nature of the Norwegian royal family.

Haakon will not undergo a formal coronation in which a crown is placed on his head. Instead, if he chooses, a separate consecration ceremony could be held at Trondheim's historic Nidaros Cathedral. The ceremony would traditionally be followed by a tour of the country by the new king and queen, allowing the new monarchs to meet citizens across Norway.



King Haakon
(Photo: Ola Vatn, The Royal Court)

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