



# Nordkapen

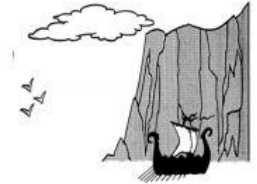
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

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

**No April or May 2021 gatherings – cancelled due to coronavirus concerns.**

**(Nordkap Lodge has taken an extended break due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Future in-person gatherings will be published once it is safe for us to congregate again.)**

## Nordkap 2020 Officers

**President:** Erik Duus

**Vice President:** Haley Vingsness

**Treasurer & Scholarship Chair:**  
Carmen Collins

**Secretary:** Mary Morehead

**Membership Secretary**

**& Sports Director:** Carol Jehle

**Cultural Director:** Karen Herche

**Social Director:** Connie Hart

**Foundation Director:**

Derrick Hendricks

**Store Director:** Natalie Vaal

**Editor & Publicity Director:**

Louise Giles

**Counselor:** Bob Giles

**Contact us:**

[Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com](mailto:Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com)

**Photos by Bob Giles,  
unless otherwise indicated**

Stay Connected on Facebook at  
Norwegians in Michigan

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/  
104416144749/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/104416144749/)

Call and leave a message at:  
248-919-8355

April/May 2021

Volume 91 Issue 3

## ***Celebrate Syttende Mai on Zoom May 16***

**Nordkap is calling members and friends** to a Zoom video conference at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 16, to celebrate the signing of the Norwegian Constitution--the world's second-oldest written Constitution still in existence today.

Norwegian Constitution Day--a national holiday in Norway--marks the date of May 17, 1814, when the country's constitution was signed at Eidsvoll, Norway. Our lodge normally marks the occasion with a festive celebration at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills.

But once again, the coronavirus pandemic has changed our plans. Until it's safe to gather again, we will observe the holiday remotely. We've chosen May 16<sup>th</sup> for the day—that's a Sunday when it's generally easier for people to take time to celebrate.



**We invite you to come** with your Norwegian flag and beverage of choice for a Happy Hour celebration. **Heather Vingsness** will again be our gracious host.

Norwegian honorary consul to Michigan, **Dennis Flessland** (right), will also be there with an update on notable news in Norway. To join us, use these instructions:

**TO JOIN BY COMPUTER at 4 p.m.,** go to: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77869312025>  
The password is nordkap, all lower case.

### **ON A SMARTPHONE:**

Download the Zoom app from the App Store (if you have an Apple phone) or the Google Play Store (if you have an Android phone). Tap "Join a Meeting". You do not have to sign in. Enter the meeting ID 77869312025 and enter the password nordkap, all lower case.



## Sunshine Updates



We are saddened to report the passing on March 12 of Nordkap member **Clarence Dorsey Mount, Jr.**, 93, husband for 70 years of the late **Catherine Mount** and brother-in-law of **Karen Lafnear**. Clarence was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of Calvary Lutheran Church, the Pontiac-Waterford Elks #810, and the James F. Lafnear Metro Pontiac F.O.P. Lodge #132. (Mount family photo)

**Harriet Duus**, mother of Nordkap President **Erik Duus**, will have surgery at Beaumont Hospital on April 12th to remove both ovaries, including one with a possible cancerous mass. Harriet and her family thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers for successful surgery, recovery, and freedom of cancer.

*(Continued on page 6)*



### GRATULERER MED DAGEN!

#### April Birthdays:

Catie Hart, Laura Howe, Sarah Jahnke, Duane Kirking, Konrad Kohl, Annette Lundberg, Clarence “Doc” Myrold, Constance Pike, Emma Skidmore, Riley Skidmore, Mary Tornquist, Wade Tornquist

#### May Birthdays:

Arne Borgnes, Sarah Duffy, Charlotte Duus, Adam Early, Myrtle Ebert, Emily Eelnurme, Thomas French, Joseph Hart, Norman Kirsch, Kathleen Hanlon-Lundberg, Zachary Marko, Bernard Moen, Ralph Pedersen, Jan Persson, Nancy Redilla, Gail Ritchie, Laura Roed, Lynn Rose, Susan Schotts, Carrie Sills, P. J. Smith, Donald Wang

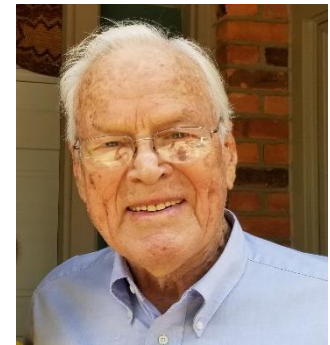
## Nordkap Has Connections to the Constitution

Did you know that Nordkap Lodge has unique connections to the Norwegian Constitution? That’s because several of our members are relatives of men who signed the document in Eidsvoll, Norway, in 1814.



One of the original signers was Nicolai Wergeland (9 November 1780 – 25 March 1848), a priest, writer, and politician. His descendants include Nordkap members **Sigrid Radwan**, her son **Ed Radwan**, daughter **Connie Hart**, and grandchildren **Laura Radwan**, **Linda Radwan**, **Christiana (Chrissy) Hart**, **Joseph Hart**, and **Caterina (Catie) Hart**—all residents of Ann Arbor.

Another constitution signer was Gustav Peter Blom (4 July 1785 – 28 October 1869), a Norwegian civil servant, politician, and historian. His great-great-grandson is a Nordkap member also named **Gustav Peter**



*Peter Blom*

**Blom** (pronounced blum—rhymes with plum) of Orchard Lake. “Peter,” as he is called, was featured in the January 2020 issue of Nordkapen in an article about his book capturing his mother’s writings, *Memories of a Country Doctor’s Wife*.



*Chrissy and Catie Hart (family photo)*

Chrissy and Catie Hart were identified as “young achievers” in the February 2021 issue of Sons of Norway’s *Viking* magazine. The article about them featured the photo shown here.

## ***Nordkap Members Show Solid Support for ‘Kringles for Kollege’***

“Kringles for Kollege,” a new initiative to support the Nordkap Scholarship Fund, was soundly supported by 20 donors who together contributed \$1,055. The money will help fund scholarships for some of Nordkap’s most deserving young people.

Each donor contributing at least \$25 was offered the “sweetener” of a delicious Danish Kringle, made by the famous **O&H Bakery in Racine, Wisconsin**--the flavor this month being raspberry. Yum!

Donors picked up their Kringles at the Swedish Club on Saturday, April 10. Arrangements were made to accommodate a few mobility-challenged members and others who couldn’t come to the club. **Here are some donors happily receiving Kringles from Louse and Bob Giles.**



*From left, down: Cathy Johnson with Louse and Bob Giles, Rick Aardal, Karen and Lynn Herche (getting curbside service from Louse), Magda Pecsnye, Louise with Carol Jehle, Erik Duus, Judy and Norm Kirsch, David Thompson, and Marina Kozlova with Louse. Masks were worn as a pandemic precaution. See more photos on page 10.*



## ***'Kringles for Kollege' Kickoff Proved a Newsy and Social Success***

Nordkap members were invited to help kick off for 'Kringles for Kollege' the afternoon of Sunday, March 21st on Zoom video conferencing. Everyone—donor or not--was welcome to join. The gathering turned out to be good way to catch up on news with friends. Among the highlights:

**P.J. Smith** told us she's related to the new U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland. As it's been reported, Sec. Haaland is Native American. P.J. pointed out that the Secretary also has Norwegian roots, and that's where the relationship lies. They are first cousins.

**Kristin Duus** had everyone witness her cutting and sampling a Dragon Fruit for the first time. Kristin said it really tasted "like nothing," but the assembled Duus family decided it would look pretty in a fruit salad, even if the taste was unremarkable.

**Heather Vingsness**, our Zoom host, said she had taken up watercolor painting with a kit from Let'sMakeArt.com. She won raves showing several paintings she had done.

**Georgia Roed** displayed a rosemaling painting she had made in the online rosemaling class offered by the 5th District Sons of Norway. More raves from the gathering!

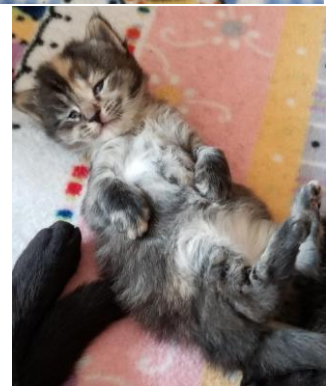
**David Thompson** identified his Happy Hour beverage as a sample from his first batch of Meade wine. He pronounced it "pretty good." But he drew loud "ohs and ahs" when he turned his camera on the six adorable kittens born in the Thompson family room (see David's photos). The kittens had been delivered by a young feral cat the family adopted—that no one suspected was pregnant!

**Carmen Collins** said she had hatched the black swallowtail butterfly being fostered in her basement.

Former Nordkap scholarship recipients, **Heather and Haley Vingsness and Lolly Duus**, said they had used their scholarship money to buy books for school.

**Rick Aardal** proudly mentioned his two nephews, Justin and Jeff Simms, both former Nordkap Scholarship recipients. Rick added that he supports the scholarship fund in memory of his late parents Thad and Audrey Aardal—both stalwart leaders of Nordkap Lodge for many years.

**Bob Giles** had the last laugh with this Kringle story: Lars Larson was on his deathbed in an upstairs bedroom. His doctor had said Lars would last for only a matter of hours. Lars woke from a deep sleep and sniffed. His wife must have just returned from the bakery, and the aroma of freshly baked Kringles bought a spark to Lars. He whispered, "If I could just have a taste of Kringle before I die, it would make my dying sweeter." He mustered every ounce of strength and got out of bed. Slowly he made his way downstairs and into the kitchen. There he spied two Kringles on the counter. Just as he was reaching out to take a piece, his wife swatted his hand away. "Stop that," she said. "We're saving these for the funeral."



## ***A Letter from President Erik Duus:***

**My love affair with “Kringle” goes back 25 years.** I was working for Ford Motor Company in the Chicago regional office, which also covered the Racine, WI, market where O&H Danish Bakery makes its famous Kringle. I was introduced to Kringle by one of the managers in the office who would buy a few every time he was in Racine and bring them back to share with the whole office. While I know “love makes the world go ’round,” in a way so does Kringle, because that guy was not very well-liked in the office; in fact, he reminds me of the [manager] Bill Lumbergh character in *Office Space* – passive-aggressively asking people for things and then adding “that would be great.” However, bringing in Kringles for the entire office a few times a year was, indeed, great!

**So after witnessing the power of Kringle to make people more likeable,** I bought one at Trader Joe’s a few weeks ago to [hopefully] build a bridge with a new neighbor. You see our backyard, across-the-fence neighbor had his ultra-bright floodlight shining across both our yards directly onto our house and into our living room and girls’ bedrooms.

So my wife and I walked around the block with Kringle in hand and rang his doorbell. I reintroduced us – affirmed his Finnish last name (as if one needed to be Nordic to love Kringle!) – and made my plea. I told him that the light was shining directly into our living room, and politely asked if he could re-position it, turn it off earlier, or install a motion sensor.

He wasn’t quite “getting it” and went on to say that he tries to turn it off around 10 p.m. That’s when the following string of words immediately just poured out of my mouth: *“Yes, but my wife and I like to dance naked between 7 and 10 p.m.”*

[SIDEBAR: I didn’t realize that his wife and three children were within earshot of the front door sitting at the dinner table!]

You should have seen the look on his face...he must have thought I was serious, my being Norwegian and all. Yes, it was an awkward encounter, but our mission was successful. That floodlight is now pointed directly down on the ground at a 90-degree angle, and if Kristin and I ever want to dance in the privacy of our own home, we could.

**The moral of the story is to “shine the light of Kringle” – and help the college students of Nordkap Lodge at the same time!**

**Med vennlig hilsen (with best regards),**

**Erik Duus**

**P.S. – Happy “Syttende Mai” in advance!** While celebrating Norway’s Constitution Day at Nordkap Lodge is “second best” to being in Norway on May 17 – and celebrating virtually on Zoom is second best to celebrating together in-person at the Swedish Club – we CAN still celebrate!

**So I hope to see ALL of you on Zoom on Sunday, May 16th.** Don’t forget, you can also download the Zoom app on your phone and join us wherever you are and for however long. If all we see of you is the blue sky because you’re picnicking and your phone is lying on the ground next to you, great. After all, you’re Norwegian! ☺

## **Sunshine Updates** (continued from page 2)

**Eli Steyskal** asks for thoughts and prayers for her sister **Linda Viik**, and for Eli's husband **Roy Steyskal's brother, Walter Steyskal**. Linda was hospitalized in intensive care for a serious infection following an emergency surgical procedure. Further treatment had to be delayed when she tested positive for COVID-19. Linda is due to be transferred to a rehabilitation facility this week. Walt, a Vietnam War veteran, will be entering a long-term care facility for veterans, due to continuing disabilities related to his war experience.

Former Nordkap treasurer **Marge Sorensen** was hospitalized with a broken arm and related injuries after fainting and falling at home. She will continue her recovery in a rehabilitation facility.

**Joe Himmel**, husband of **Carmen Collins**, had successful surgery in February to reverse the ileostomy he had to treat a previous condition. Joe has recovered well, received his COVID vaccine, and is getting back into what Carmen calls 'regular' living!

**Debbie Simms** received treatment with ablation along with 3 cardioversions to get her heart into rhythm earlier this year. Cardioversion is a medical procedure that restores a normal heart rhythm in people with certain types of abnormal heartbeats (arrhythmias). She's feeling good currently!

**Carol Jehle** has been nursing an obstinate infection of the eyelid. One of the treatments her doctor prescribed was applying a warm potato to the area. Very soothing, according to Carol!

There's good news about Nordkap's former Norwegian language teacher, **Adrienne Shepherd**, being treated over the past year for cancer. A new line of treatment resulted in the disappearance of over 20 small cancerous spots she had in her brain at the beginning of January. The plan is to continue on this treatment to keep the brain metastases under control.

Nordkap's recent Norwegian language teacher, **Merete Stenersen-Eelnurme**, had manipulation under anesthesia for her left knee, not recovering as well as her right knee after double knee replacements earlier this year. Merete says her left knee has already caught up with the right knee in flexing. She adds her muscles are very sore, but just need to get stronger--and the physical therapy is working!

**Sandra and Tim Miller's son Colin** will graduate from the University of Michigan School of Social Work summa cum laude on May 1st. Congratulations, Colin!



*Colin Miller (family photo)*

As it became safer to do so, some people have been able to get back to doing some of the things they love doing best. Two of them are **Mary Morehead** and **Jan Flessland**. On the left, Mary is making krumkake with 9-year-old granddaughter **Kate Zawicki** (Mary's photo). On the right, Jan Flessland is out for a walk with 5-year-old granddaughter **Olivia Vaal**.



## Join Nordkap for a Nature Hike at Kensington Metropark on May 1st

--By Cathy Johnson

Come join Nordkap Lodge members and friends on Saturday, May 1st, at 9 a.m. to hike at Kensington Metropark, a 4,481-acre wonderland at 4570 Huron River Pkwy in Milford.

**We will meet at the Nature Center parking lot inside the park.** Signs in the park will direct you to the Nature Center or ask at the entrance booths for directions. Park hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Various trails can be accessed from the parking lot – up to 7 miles of them. Most are very well-groomed, wandering through varied environments like forests, wetlands, and lakes.

**If you like birds, this is a great place to spot them**— perhaps even the colony of Blue Herons at the rookery (the breeding colony with a large collection of nests high in the trees along the lake by the Nature Center). Blue Herons should have started returning to their nests by mid- to late March, and hatchlings should start appearing 27-29 days after eggs are laid. Bring your camera and binoculars.



*Blue Herons (Photo by Karen Banish)*

**If you like, also bring a snack and a chair**, and after hiking we can enjoy being outside for an informal picnic.

Kensington Metropark has a daily entrance fee of \$10 per vehicle. If you have a 2021 Metropark pass, entrance is included in your membership.

Due to Covid-19, social distancing and mask wearing are being encouraged and followed at all Metroparks. Currently, the Nature Center building is closed, however most bathrooms throughout the park are open. Bring your own water, as all drinking fountains are turned off.

Our hike will take place rain or shine – we are Norwegians after all!

**If you have questions**, please contact **Cathy Johnson** at [cjmichigan@comcast.net](mailto:cjmichigan@comcast.net) or 248-961-0326. I'll be organizing this event and am looking forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, May 1st, 2021 – at 9 a.m. at the Nature Center parking lot. I'll wear a Norwegian shirt in case you don't know me. Hope to see you all soon!

### WEATHER IN NORWEGIAN

## Vær på norsk



## ***Gift Honors Grandparents who Helped Establish Nordkap Lodge***

Many thanks to Nordkap member **Debra Kraft** and her uncle for the generous contribution of \$500 to the general fund of our lodge.

The donation was made in honor of Debra's grandparents, **Karl and Agnes Højberg**, recognized among the founding members of the lodge and "in appreciation of the fact that the lodge continues to thrive so many years after its founding" in 1929.

Debra writes that the contribution was made possible by her uncle **Raymond Erlandson**, who sent her the check over Christmas as a way to show his deep appreciation of her grandparents.

Debra writes of her uncle, "Since he is Swedish and his children are Swedish and Norwegian, I believe he would also appreciate the fact that the lodge represents a collaboration of Norwegian- and Swedish-Americans" since the lodge currently rents from the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills.

Debra told Nordkap members about her grandparents just over a year ago in a presentation about a "Viking funeral" staged for her parents.

She told of her grandmother, Agnes Pedersen, who emigrated from Norway, and her grandfather, Karl Højberg, who emigrated from Denmark. She explained that "Agnes and Karl met in Detroit. They married, joined an active Scandinavian community, and helped to establish the Nordkap Lodge."

**We join Debra and Raymond in celebrating the lives of Karl and Agnes Højberg** and their important roles in Nordkap history. We also express our appreciation for this gift of \$500 and its positive effect on the bottom line for our lodge.

## ***Tubfrim Program Update: Your Used Stamps Are Still Needed***

Please keep saving your used stamps for the Tubfrim charity in Norway. Nordkap membership secretary **Carol Jehle** will continue to collect them, once we are able to gather again.

The stamps will be forwarded to the 5th District Sons of Norway, now responsible for relaying our stamps to Tubfrim in Norway. Sons of Norway Headquarters in Minneapolis can no longer handle this duty and has relegated it to its districts. Headquarters has also suspended the \$1,000 prize drawing that has been a part of the program in the past.

Please know that your used stamps from letters and postcards are still needed, as the profits from their sale are used to help handicapped children and youth in Norway and to finance efforts to eradicate tuberculosis. **Just cut or tear the stamps off the envelopes, leaving a slight margin (approx. 1/4 to 1/2 inch) to keep the perforation intact.** Damaged stamps (damaged perforation, edges etc.) are worthless and are to be thrown away.



*Agnes & Karl Højberg (family photo)*



## ***Important News You Need to Know:***

### **Nordkap has a new vice president!**

- Recently returned to the Detroit area after residing in New York City, former Nordkap president **Haley Vingsness** volunteered to fill the lodge's vacant vice president position for the remainder of the year. She assumed the position after approval by the Nordkap Board on April 8. Haley succeeds **Cathy Johnson**, who elected not to continue after serving as vice president in 2020.

### **New member recruitment goal for Nordkap in 2021:**

- Sons of Norway is asking all lodges, regardless of size, to recruit 4% more new members this year than in 2020. For Nordkap Lodge, that means **22 new members in 2021**. We have two new members so far this year.

At the end of the campaign, lodges that meet the recruitment challenge will receive a \$125 award. The recruiting lodge members will receive a certificate and a 2021 Recruiter Pin, shown here, sent directly to them after they recruit their first new member. To get credit for recruiting, have the new member write your name and member number clearly on the enrollment form.



### **'Walking to Norway' photos now on District website:**

- If you took part in last year's Walking to Norway fundraiser – even if you didn't – you might like to see the PowerPoint presentation about the highly successful campaign. You can view it on the 5th District website by going to [https://sonsofnorway5.com/programs/sports\\_and\\_recreation.php](https://sonsofnorway5.com/programs/sports_and_recreation.php) and then clicking on the link on the upper right: [Celebrating the 125th Anniversary Virtual Walk to Norge PowerPoint](#). Nordkap's participants are featured in Slides 15-17 of the presentation.

### **District News is available every Friday:**

- The *Friendly Fifth Friday News* from the 5th District Sons of Norway is available for all members to see on the website. Look for it every Friday at [http://sonsofnorway5.com/news/friendly\\_fifth\\_friday\\_news.php](http://sonsofnorway5.com/news/friendly_fifth_friday_news.php)

### **Scholarship applicants need current letters of recommendation:**

- Students applying for Nordkap scholarships are required to submit two *current* letters of recommendation (written within the last year). Letters older than the requirement will not be considered. Information about applying for Nordkap scholarships and an application form can be found on Nordkap's website at <http://www.detroitnorwegians.com/scholarship.html>. **NOTE: The deadline to apply is June 30!**

## ***Even Trolls Love 'Kringles for Kollege'***

Our \$1,055 fundraiser meant special Kringle deliveries to a troll... and others as well:



***Kringle Buddies Mary Morehead and Carmen Collins pick theirs up.***



***Home delivery for Peter Blom***



***Down the street to Dennis Flessland***



***Olaf Oscar Smork, the Norwegian troll at the Swedish Club, tries a sample from Bob Giles (Dan Nelson photo)***

**NORDKAP**

**LODGE 5-378**

**c/o Louise Giles**

**Box 1198**

**Royal Oak, MI**

**48068**