



Nordkapen

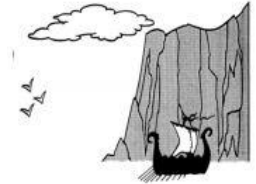
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

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 Norway Lodge in Michigan

<http://www.DetroitNorwegians.com>



NORDKAP CALENDAR

“Midsommar” Celebration
Saturday, June 24
The Swedish Club

Sunday, Oct. 22 – 4 p.m.
Members Gathering
The Swedish Club

Nordkap 2023 Officers

President: Haley Vingsness
Treasurer & Scholarship Chair:
Carmen Collins

Secretary: Mary Morehead
Membership Secretary
& Sunshine Director: Carol Jehle
Social Director & Greeter:
Eli Viik Steyskal

Co-Cultural Directors:
Karen Herche & Magda Pecsénye
Sports Director: Cathy Johnson
Co-Youth Directors:
Yana Thompson & David Thompson

Foundation Director:
Derrick Hendricks
Co-Store Directors:
Natalie Vaal & Dennis Flessland
Editor & Publicity Director:
Louise Giles
Counselor: Bob Giles

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248-919-8355

Photos by Bob Giles,
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/104416144749/>

June/July/August 2023

Volume 93 Issue 4

We'll Join the Swedes in Their “Midsommar”

This year as Nordkap's traditional Midsummer on June 23 and the Swedish Club's "Midsommar" on June 24 come so close together, we're closing ranks and joining the Swedes in their celebration of the longest day of the year. It'll be fun to learn more about how our friends, the Swedes, celebrate a holiday we both observe.

The venue will be familiar to Nordkap members. It's the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills. The festivities will be Scandinavian, but definitely Swedish in character. The Detroit Swedish Foundation is again sponsoring their event.

Their Midsommar celebration will kick off between 11 a.m. and noon on Saturday, June 24. It will include Scandinavian music, a beer and wine tent, a buffet luncheon, and traditional singing and dancing around a Maypole festooned with fresh flowers. The Swedish folk group *En Gång Till* (One More Time) will be the entertainment highlighter.

The luncheon will be a typical Swedish Midsommar spread, normally with meatballs, potatoes, and other fixings. The price is \$10, not including beer and wine. Children 15 and under are free. **If you didn't already buy a ticket in advance at our Norwegian Constitution Day celebration,** it would be helpful if you let Swedish Club President Dan Nelson know that you are planning on coming. Email Dan at aviking85@gmail.com.



Swedish Club Photo

GRATULERER MED DAGEN!

June Birthdays:

David Ray Bryhn, Sheryl Dalton, Jeff Hatteberg, Maureen Hatteberg, Kelsey Hibbs, Kathryn Injerd, Audrey Johnson, Laura Radwan, Edward Vingsness

July Birthdays:

Lorelei Jeanne Øye, Jayne Lafnear Bannister, Beatrice Barnes, Magdalene Barnes, Gilbert Bergsrud, Monica Dowhan, Michael Duffy, Holger Ekanger, Christiana Hart, Ryan Hibbs, Debra Kraft, Greg Morehead, Mary Morehead, Ana Gjesdal Skidmore, Jacob Brian Skidmore, Jeannine Sturgeon, Abigail Sullivan, Erik Thomassen, David Thompson, Erik Vingsness, Bridget Wiley Robbins

August Birthdays:

Rick Aardal, Jarle Amundsen, Tove Bruning, Bryant Clary, Kristin Duus, Alexa Francis, James Green, Geir Gronstad, Øystein Gjertsen Hekneby, Lynn Herche, Richard Hole, William Injerd, Marina Kozlova, Georgia Roed, Gene Skidmore, Margaret Sorensen, Lewis Vaal, Olivia Vaal



Movie Night Scores Hit with Nordkap Audience

We went **REALLY BIG** for our Nordkap Movie Night in April, and the silver screen for our movie never looked better!

All thanks go to Mike Jarasz (with major assistance from Haley Vingsness) for building out a **BIG** movie screen at the end of the Swedish Club dining room. There Mike projected the Norwegian film *Narvik*, telling the story of the World War II battle for the port city of Narvik. The Norwegian town was the site of Nazi Germany's first military defeat.

The wide screen and the dramatic war film drew us in. We snacked on the popcorn provided by Mary Morehead and chips from Eli Steyskal. People enjoyed their beverages of choice brought for the occasion, or they purchased soft drinks from the Swedes' refrigerator.



Narvik certainly brought home the harsh realities of the war, the hardships and terrible losses the Norwegian people endured. But in this battle, at least, the Nazis were defeated. And our Movie Night was a resounding success.

Our Constitution Day Celebration was One of the Best!

Once again we were blessed with nice weather for our celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day! This year, we set the event for May 13th—a Saturday—to make it easy for people and their families to attend, and we had a great turnout!

We began with our parade, led by flag bearers Øystein Hekneby (Norwegian flag), Nathan Thomason (Canadian flag), and David Thompson (American flag). Close behind were our Nordic folk musicians, Jenni Burke (violin), Ron Karvonen (mandolin), and Steve Niemi (guitar). Everyone else followed, waving Norwegian flags and shouting “Hurra for Norge!”



President Haley Vingsness led us in singing the three national anthems, then presided at our brief program where Honorary Consul of Norway Dennis Flessland spoke and people wearing bunads were recognized. Membership Secretary Carol Jehle presented certificates to those who had recruited new members.

A delicious lunch of hot dogs (grilled by Mike Jarasz), chips, and Norwegian waffles was next. Everyone could also buy Norwegian cheeses and other specialties from our “Import Store.”

Then on to the games with a sack race for children and the Cod Toss for all brave enough to throw slippery fish heads. This year’s Cod Toss winners were: Riley Skidmore, 7, in the Young Girls category; Sigurd Gunnaes, 11, Young Boys; Emma Skidmore, 13, Teenage Girls; Anders Myklebust, 15, Teenage Boys; Eaven O’Meara, 22, Women; and Ryan Ekanger, 35, Men--and Grand Champion.

We rounded out the day with a bountiful coffee-and-dessert buffet. Thanks to all who made this special day happen!



Mary Tornquist photo

Our Infamous Cod Toss Joins the Annals of History

All good things must come to an end, and so it was with Nordkap’s outrageous--but beloved--Cod Toss.

That’s the Cod Toss where contestants throw frozen fish heads for distance, trying to grasp the slippery creatures for a good toss while minimizing the smelly residue that sticks to the fingers. The rewards were amusing—all simple “fishy prizes”—but there was also the notoriety of being the Cod Toss Champion if you achieved the longest throw.

It was a good time and humorous entertainment for about 20 years at our annual celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day. A local newspaper even published a satirical YouTube video on it several years ago.

But Cod Toss founder Bob Giles reluctantly decided the tossing had run its course.

“Some of our Cod Toss champions said they could toss cod all day, but after 20 years we felt it was time to toss it out.”

And so it ends. Our rotating grand trophy—the “Oh My Cod” plaque—was retired when our last champion, Ryan Ekanger of St. Claire, MI, added his signature to the trophy’s back along with the names of many of the champions before him.

Our imperfect archives of past Grand Champions on the back of our trophy include these names (our apologies to any left out):

Lilje Solveig Grønstad, 2010

Sverre Sears, 2011

Sverre Sears, 2012

Erik Duus, 2012

Lee Stinson, 2013

Lee Stinson, 2014

**Aleksander Aam Ingvaldsen,
2015**

Mark Collins, 2016

Erik Copeland, 2017

Mike Jehle, 2018

Brandt Monson, 2019

Nathaniel Thomason, 2022

Ryan Wilson Ekanger, 2023



Nathan Thomason and family



Ryan Ekanger and daughters

A Letter from President Haley Vingsness:

Gratulerer med dagen (belated!). I hope you're all doing great after our recent celebration of Syttende mai (Constitution Day). It was a blast, wasn't it? The delicious hot dogs and waffles, the parade and singing, our talented Nordic folk musicians, and the unforgettable Cod Toss—it truly brought out our Norwegian pride! Enormous thanks are in order for Carol Jehle and all of our amazing volunteers.



Haley Vingsness, center with flag

Now, here's some exciting news: We're already starting to plan next year's schedule of events. Time flies! And here's the best part—we want your ideas! What would make our lodge even more awesome? Is there a particular handicraft you've been itching to learn? Did you love the brewery and want to do it again? Or do you really miss that one thing we used to do? Maybe you know of a fantastic guest speaker? Let us know! Our lodge is a diverse community with varied interests, and we want to make sure our schedule caters to everyone.

So, don't be shy! Shoot us an email with your suggestions, or better yet, join us at our next meeting to discuss them in person. Your input is invaluable in shaping the future of our lodge, and we can't wait to hear your brilliant ideas.

In the meantime, let's get ready to have a blast at the upcoming Midsommar celebrations with the Swedish Club. It's going to be fantastic—a time for us to come together, enjoy the summer solstice, and strengthen our bonds with our Swedish friends.

Thanks a ton for your ongoing support and active participation. You all rock! Let's make this the best year yet!

Med vennlig hilsen (with best regards),

Haley Vingsness

haleyv@outlook.com



Julekake and Verdens Beste Kake Klasse

By Mary Morehead

Our baking classes continued with Julekake (Traditional Christmas Bread) (April 1, 2023) and Verdens Beste Kake (World's Best Cake) (April 29, 2023). Both recipes are very traditional Norwegian and very delicious. Yummy! I understand why the Norwegians feel this cake is the world's best, because it's a very delicious cake and even tastes better the next day when the cake absorbs the custard/whipping cream filling. The classes were held at Mary Morehead's house. Attending were her devoted chefs: Derrick Hendricks, Carol Jehle, Dee and Roy Marvel, Magda Pecsénye, and Eli Steyskal. We had a special young guest join our Julekake class. Eli brought her granddaughter, Nolla Williams, and she had fun with us. We enjoyed having her.



Derrick & Carol



Nolla & Eli



Dee & Roy



Taste testing our julekake with Mary



Magda



Magda & Eli



Derrick



Norwegian smørbrød lunch



Dee, Roy & Carol

Sunshine Update: Heather & Jarrod Mentor a Winning Robotics Team

Lodge member **Heather Vingsness** stepped back this year as head coach of Detroit Catholic Central High School's Shambots First Robotics team due to a job change, but she continues on as a team mentor with her husband, **Jarrold Brown**. She has set the stage for a successful program, as recognized by the Team Sustainability award won by the Shambots at the State Championship.

The CC Shambots were proud to be nationally recognized with the Quality Award in the Curie Division of the World Championships! This is the team's third Worlds appearance and their first national award. The Quality Award celebrates machine robustness in concept and fabrication. Building the robot is only part of their success, and the judges recognize them as a quality example to others.

The road to Worlds included a Division Championship win and State Championship Division win. Their alliance placed 6th in the state out of almost 500 teams. Team Captain Philip Austin has worked hard all year in leading the team in their most successful season ever. Next season, the team will practice in the school's new \$35 million STEM wing. There will be a dedicated machine shop and computer lab overlooking the basketball court-sized practice field for robots.

The team is very lucky to have the support of Detroit Catholic Central High School and several dedicated corporate partners, including KLA, Mitsubishi Electric, Ford, DTE, GM, and Strattec. Students are gaining work experience by interning at these companies and preparing for careers in engineering, computer science, and design.

Congratulations to the CC Shambots! And Hurra for Heather and Jarrod!

Editor's Note: As you may have guessed, the Shambots name refers both to the Catholic Central "Shamrocks" and to "bots," a short name for robots. Our thanks to Heather for providing the photo and information for this update.

Jarrold Brown and Heather Vingsness (front row on the left) celebrate Shambots victory with other mentors of the team.



Don't Be Late for Class—Get Your Scholarship Application In!

The final bell has almost rung for students planning to apply for a Nordkap Scholarship for college. And the “homework” assignment to get one is to complete a written application.

Since the due date for applications is **June 30th**—just a few weeks away—there’s no time to lose. No extensions are available. The end of June is a firm date. That’s when applications need to be emailed or post-marked.

You can access an application form at:

<http://www.detroitnorwegians.com/scholarship.html> or from Scholarship Chair Carmen Collins at skicarmen@att.net.



As Carmen explains, “Making out our application is much simpler than taking a final exam. It just involves supplying some basic information, answering several questions, and providing a few supporting documents. But you need to start early, so you have time to get the materials you need.”

Completed applications with all supporting materials can be emailed or sent by postal mail to Carmen. All instructions are on the website.

Final decisions on awards will be made by the 2023 Scholarship Committee—Bob and Louise Giles, Heather Vingsness, and chair Carmen Collins.

Reprinted From the Newsletter of the Finnish Center Association (FCA)

FCA is kicking off a new capital campaign this month focused on restoring and enhancing our building, which is now 50 years old!

The goal of the three-year campaign is \$300,000, which will allow for some major refurbishments including a new roof and much-needed repairs to the masonry and entryway. Our building has served us well but has been showing signs of age and deterioration. Additionally, the board’s Fundraising Subcommittee has applied for several grants to provide further support for these restoration efforts.

In coming months, you’ll be hearing more about the capital campaign. We need everyone’s support. However large or small your donation, every penny counts and will bring us closer to our goal.

Back in the 1960s a group of Finns had a dream, which they brought to fruition through the building of our beautiful cultural center and hall. We are proud to still be carrying on that dream today and preserving Finnish culture for the generations to follow.

Editor’s Note: *The FCA building belongs to the Finns—not to Nordkap, of course. Nordkap participates with the Finns in November in their Scandinavian Market at their building at 35200 Eight Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI.*

A Fine Day in Nature Preserved in Memory and Photos

A diminutive but enthusiastic group joined Sports Director Cathy Johnson for one of her enlightening Nature Hikes at Kensington Metropark in Milford on May 20. Cathy led the group in a circuit around Wildwing Lake and showed them scenes at the Great Blue Heron Rookery on the island in the lake.

Look for future Nature Hikes led by Cathy. She's a knowledgeable birder and excellent photographer. We've featured Cathy's photos in the past, but these pictures are from Haley Vingsness, who joined the walk with Mike Jarasz and Sheryl Dalton from Nordkap Lodge, along with Cathy's friends, John and Lynn Hughes.



Lt. to rt: Mike Jarasz, Haley Vingsness, Cathy Johnson, & Sheryl Dalton



A turkey in the wild



Capturing a songbird on camera: Mike Jarasz, left, with John Hughes

Where Can You Find Norwegian Bird houses?



By Mary Morehead

If you attended our 17.mai celebration on Saturday, May 13th, you might have seen or purchased one. Mary Morehead and her two friends, Sally Savasky and Lisa Varnier, had some get-togethers at Mary's house and painted 12 Norwegian bird houses (Mary kept one for herself). They were sold at our 17.mai celebration for \$20 each, and all the proceeds (\$220) went toward our Nordkap Lodge Scholarship Fund. What a fun way to raise money for our scholarship fund! If you are interested in one, we will be selling more at our 17.mai celebration in 2024.



From left: Sally Savasky, Lisa Varnier and Mary Morehead

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