



Nordkapen

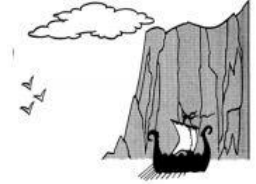
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

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>



January 2018

Volume 88 Issue 1

NORDKAP CALENDAR

January 28 -- Lodge meeting, 4 p.m., the Swedish Club

February 25 – Lodge meeting, 4 p.m., the Swedish Club

March –Date and Time TBD, Bowling, Luxury Lanes, Ferndale

April 22 -- Lodge meeting, 4 p.m., the Swedish Club

(See complete 2018 calendar on our website under "Events")

Current Officers

President: Louise Giles

Vice President: Mark Eelnurme

Treasurer: Marge Sorensen

Secretary: Mary Morehead

Financial &

Membership Secretary:

Carol Jehle

Editor: Bob Giles

Foundation & Scholarship

Director:

Natalie Flessland Vaal

Cultural Director:

Carmen Collins

Youth Director:

Heather Vingsness

Sports & Recreation Director:

Merete Stenersen

Counselor: Geir Gronstad

Contact us:

Nordkap@detroitnorwegians.com

Photos by Bob Giles, unless otherwise indicated

Learn about 'Polar Nights' on January 28

What's it like to live in near total darkness for weeks at a time? That's what people in Northern Norway grapple with each winter, as the sun barely creeps past the horizon during "Polar Nights." Many struggle with seasonally-induced depression over the winter due to the lack of light.

Nordkap officer Merete Stenersen is a veteran of Polar Nights, growing up in Tromsø, Norway. She will be "casting a little light" (pun intended) on Polar Nights when she speaks at our dinner meeting on January 28 at the Swedish Club, 22398 Ruth St. in Farmington Hills.

Importantly, the meeting will also see the installation of our new officers for 2018.

What and When:

- 4 p.m.: Social time
- 4:30 p.m.: Lutefisk and lefse appetizer
- Dinner: Torsk (cod) and meatballs
- Dessert: Fastelavnsboller (Shrovetide buns or Lenten buns)

After dinner:

- Installation of 2018 officers
- Presentation on Polar Nights in Norway by Merete



Lutefisk: Try this traditional food as an appetizer in January.

SUNSHINE UPDATES



(Mary Morehead photo)

Congratulations to **Mary & Greg Morehead** on the birth of their grandson, Luke Steven Savage, born November 21 to daughter and son-in-law, Lyndsay and Zach Savage. Little Luke is shown here with his parents and two-year-old brother Elijah.

Georgia Roed is helping a friend, the former church organist Mary Whittmore, start a bell choir at Waltonwood Twelve Oaks senior living community in Novi, where Mary is a resident. Georgia is a former bell choir member and previously taught vocal music to elementary school students.

Best wishes to:

- **Merete Stenersen**, following knee surgery
- **Karen Arneson**, recovering from an arm broken when a neighbor's dog jumped on her
- **Geir Gronstad**, still working to rehab his knee

GRATULERER MED DAGEN!

January Birthdays:

Peter Blom, Lillian Bryant, Nina Bryhn, Veda Bryhn, Douglas Czinder, Elizabeth "Lolly" Duus, Erik Duus, Cecilia Lundberg, Timothy Nilsen, Deborah Simms, Annelisa Sturgeon

New Officers To Lead Nordkap into 2018

Nordkap unanimously elected the following officers in November to lead our lodge in 2018. These officers-elect will take their positions after installation on January 24.

Co-Presidents: Louise Giles and Haley Vingsness
Vice President: Mark Eelnurme
Treasurer: Marge Sorensen
Secretary: Mary Morehead
Financial Secretary: Carol Jehle
Membership Secretary: Carol Jehle
Cultural Director: Merete Stenersen
Sports and Recreation Director: Merete Stenersen
Youth Director: Heather Vingsness
Foundation Director: Derrick Hendricks
Scholarship Director: Natalie Vaal
Store Director: Natalie Vaal
Historian: Geir Gronstad
Greeters: Connie Hart and Cathy Johnson
Publicity Director: Louise Giles
Editor: Bob Giles
Counselor: Bob Giles

2017 Bowling a Success! We Bowl Again in 2018

In case you were wondering, last year's bowling tournament to raise funds for the 5th District Scholarship Fund was a great success. And, yes, Nordkap will offer bowling again this year! Stay tuned for details in future issues of this newsletter.

Meanwhile, Michaela Decker, 5th District Sports and Recreation Director, reported these results for the District's 2017 tournament:

Some 120 bowlers from the six-state District 5 took part. (Nordkap hosted 24 bowlers.)

\$850 was raised. (Nordkap contributed \$225 toward that total.)

Nordkap's Sandy Bliss, one of five daughters of our late member Torgie Torgerson, won top honors among adult female bowlers.

Other winners were:

- Adult male winner: A tie between Lars Arneson and Brandon Miles, both of Mandt Lodge in Stoughton, WI.
- Youth bowler (12-17 years of age): Carson Murphy, Mandt Lodge, in Stoughton, WI.
- Youth bowler (11 years of age and under): Jackson Wigant from Valkyrien Lodge, Woodville, WI.
- Wii bowler: Byron Britten from Fagerness Lodge in Blair, WI.

Norwegian Language Classes Are Back!

With the New Year and a new teacher, our Norwegian language classes will resume on January 24.

Merete Stenersen, a native of Tromsø, Norway, will take up the teaching duties on Wednesday nights from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for eight weeks at the Swedish Club.

Merete is well familiar with Nordkap's lessons and students, since she attended class with husband Mark Eelnurme, who was enrolled as a student. She often served as a special resource to teacher Adrienne Shepard when a question arose requiring a native Norwegian's point of view.

Merete has accelerated teaching certification from the State of Michigan and is licensed to teach. She is currently working in the Detroit area as a substitute teacher.

In our coming classes, Merete plans to take up instruction of continuing students where it left off when Adrienne moved to Oregon last summer. However, beginning students will also be welcome and will receive special attention.

Tuition for the term of classes is \$80, payable at the first class at the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills.



Merete Stenersen (family photo)

Scholarship Fund Grows with Silent Auction Proceeds

The Nordkap Scholarship Fund became a lot sounder last month with the deposit of money raised by our Silent Auction at the Christmas party.

Party-goers bid often—and sometimes high—on a cornucopia of items donated to fund lodge scholarships for the coming year. When the final bid was placed—and the auction declared “closed”—**a total of \$1,238 was raised for scholarships.**

The money is most welcome, since Nordkap awarded five scholarships of \$750 each in 2017 and expects many applicants in 2018.



Norwegian-style sweaters drew bidders at Nordkap's silent auction.

P.S: An additional \$138 for scholarships was raised in November from the proceeds of a basket of Norwegian goods at the Scandinavian Market.



Oddny Ellinor Viik (October 6, 1926 - December 12, 2017)

We are sorry to report the passing of longtime Nordkap member Oddny Viik at the age of 91. For the past few years, Oddny lived with her daughter and son-in-law, Eli and Roy Steyskal, in Fowlerville. Eli said Oddny had recently received a pin in the mail for 45 years of membership from Nordkap Membership Secretary Carol Jehle.

Oddny was an active member of Nordkap for many of those 45 years and was one of the members responsible for the longevity and success of our lodge. A year ago, she came to our special meeting for longtime members to help us identify people and places in Nordkap's historic photos. Eli attended with Oddny and recalls how much her mom enjoyed being part of that session.

Oddny was born in Ålesund, Norway, to Ingvald and Alida (Overaas) Iversen. She married the late Nils K. Viik February 24, 1944, in Alesund, Norway. She was a seamstress in Norway and, after arriving in this country, worked as a seamstress for the J. L Hudson Company.

Oddny is survived by her son Arve (Bonnie) Viik of Holly and daughters Eli (Roy) Steyskal of Fowlerville and Linda Viik of Wayne. She also leaves six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. The family plans a memorial service sometime in the spring.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: Sixth in a Series by Geir Gronstad

THE SLOOPERS: This summary is from “Veien mot Vest” by Ingrid Semmingsen

On July 5th, 1825, the sloop Restaurasjonen (“Restoration”) left from Stavanger with 52 people aboard. This is considered to be the first organized emigration of Norwegians, and this pioneer group, called “Sloopers”, was led by an early explorer, Cleng Peerson.

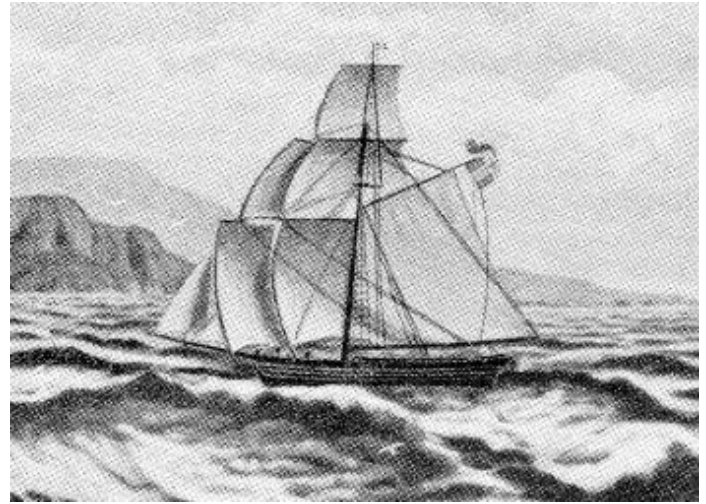
It is necessary to go a few years back in time before 1825 to find the pre-history for this event. Norway had for many years been under the Danes, and was a dependency under the Danish King. The Danish King supported Napoleon Bonaparte in the war 1807-1814. This resulted in the capture of Norwegian sailors by Napoleon's enemies. Many sailors were put in British prisons where they could have been in contact with new religious communities, like the Quakers. When released from prison, they brought these new religious thoughts with them back to Norway and founded new religious communities there. The authorities in Norway did not approve of any other religious direction than the Lutheran. The religious dissenters were persecuted and threatened by the government. The Quaker dissenters in Norway maintained contact with the Quaker communities elsewhere in the world, including the English Quakers. It is probably through this contact that a group in Stavanger got to hear about opportunities for the community to settle in America.

In 1821, the Quaker community in the Stavanger area sent two of their members over to America. These two were Cleng Peerson (Klein Pedersen Hesthammer) and Knud Olsen Eide, who died shortly after after arriving in America. In 1824, Cleng Peerson came back and spoke of the good prospects he had seen. It was decided that a group should travel, and Cleng went back to America to prepare for their arrival. Only a small number of the sloopers were members of the Quaker community, but most of them were probably Haugeans, sympathizers with the Quakers. Some of them later became Quakers.

(continued next page)

(“Archives” continued)

The *Restaurasjonen* was a small sloop, or as it is called in Norway “*Hardanger Jakt*”. She was built in Hardanger in 1801 as the “*Emanuel*”, but was renamed “*Haabet*” (Hope) probably in 1815. The sloop was used for freighting herring and corn. In 1820, she was rebuilt and renamed “*Restaurasjonen*”. She was only 54 foot in length and 16 foot in width.



The sloop Restaurasjonen (artist's rendering)

When *Restaurasjonen* left Stavanger in 1825, she was carrying a load of iron and 52 persons including the ship's crew. The passengers came from the southwestern part of Norway, many from *Tysvær* – a small community in Rogaland, just east of *Kopervik* and *Haugesund*. They crossed the North Sea and passed through the British Channel. It is not known why they chose this route, but it was certainly not a shortcut. At the English coast, they entered the small harbor of *Lisett* where they

started to sell hard liquor, unaware that this was illegal. When they found out what danger they had set themselves in, they had to escape in a hurry and forgot to load supplies and drinking water. They went as far south as *Madeira*. Outside of *Funchal*, they found a barrel of *Madeira* wine floating in the sea, which they rescued. Due to lack of water on the ship, the crew soon became seriously drunk from the wine, and the ship came floating in to the harbor without command or showing her flag. The cannons at the fort were all pointing at the sloop when a *Bremen* ship alerted them to immediately show their colors. One of the passengers then, in the last minute, managed to raise the flag. The sloopers stayed at *Funchal* for about a week to bunker, and they were well treated.

The voyage continued on August 7th when *Restaurasjonen* left the harbor in *Funchal* and on October 9th, she entered the harbor in *New York*, now with 53 people. In *New York* the ship, cargo and captain were taken under arrest due to a violation of the 1819 *Passenger Act*. For a vessel her size, *Restaurasjonen* had far more passengers than allowed by the American law. However, the arrival of this small ship attracted attention in *New York*. This was the smallest ship known to have crossed the Atlantic with emigrants. In *New York* the sloopers were met by *Cleng Peerson*, and it is likely that his connection with the *Quaker* community in *New York* was a help in getting the case against the sloopers dropped. When the ship and cargo were sold, they only got 400 Dollars, which was less than half of what they had paid for it in *Norway*. The money they got for the ship and cargo was supposed to be their investment capital in the new country.



Cleng Peerson (1783-1865)
(historic photo)

On November 15th, 1825, they were pardoned by President *John Quincy Adams* personally. By this time most of the sloopers had already gone to *Kendall Township*, *Orleans County* in *New York*. This was the first *Norwegian* colony in *America* since *Leiv Eriksson*, who had been there sometime around the year 1000.

Congratulations to These Members

Congratulations are in order for *Nordkap* members present at the Christmas party who were given *Sons of Norway* pins for membership by Membership Director *Carol Jehle*. Five-year pins went to **Judy Kirsch**, **Erik Sorensen**, **Erik Duus**, **Ernest Halvorson**, **Marina Kozlova**, and **Norman Kirsch**. **Sven Hahr** was honored for 20 years and **Peggy Gjerpen** for 50 years. Sports Medal awards were also given to *Carol's* grandchildren. **Emma Jehle** received the *Svømmemerke* or Swimming award: Levels Bronze, Silver, Gold and Enamel. **Chet Jehle** received the *Idrettsmerke* award or Activities Award: Levels Bronze, Silver, Gold and Enamel. Gratulerer!

A Letter from Nordkap's President

Three years and counting. That's what the days add up to in my time as president of Nordkap Lodge. It's been a rewarding journey, and the adventure continues—but more about that later.

The Ledger: My three-year milestone inspires some reflection. What have we done, and has it made a difference? Apart from some truly wonderful Norwegian meals, outstanding dinner programs, great sporting events like baseball and bowling, and festive celebrations of Syttende Mai, Midsummer, and Christmas, these highlights come to mind:

- **We hosted our first “road trip” in recent memory** when we took 47 members and guests on an all-day bus trip to Chicago to see the touring “Vikings” exhibit at the Field Museum of Natural History.
- **We rescued our lodge records from obscurity** when we contracted to store them permanently at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library in Ann Arbor. (An added benefit of this process was Geir Gronstad's taking on the work of historian and contributing a series of “From the Archives” articles to this newsletter.)
- **We held a special luncheon for our most senior members** in 2016 and got their help in identifying people and places in old lodge photographs.
- **We honored our World War II veterans** in 2016 and had one of them, Howard Skovlund, ride as our guest of honor in the Farmington Founders Festival Parade.
- **We hosted 5th District President Andy Johnsen at a special meeting.** Andy brought the District's Traveling Viking Chest with treasures for us to see. Nordkap contributed its own special object to the chest--a hand-wrought nail from the replica Viking ship Draken Harald Hårfagre our members saw when it visited Michigan.
- **We continued our successful Norwegian language classes**, grew them in size, and arranged for a new teacher, Merete Stenersen, to take up where our first teacher left off.
- **We gave out \$9,750 in 11 scholarship awards** over three years—and kept raising funds to keep our ambitious scholarship program going.
- **We applied for--and won--two Partnership Grants from the Sons of Norway.** One grant helped us buy a computer. The second bought newspaper ads that drew dozens of new people to our Syttende Mai celebration.
- **We joined the Swedes in hosting a booth at the Scottish Highland Games** in Livonia to publicize our clubs.
- **We printed Nordkap business cards** and made them available for members to use in promoting our lodge and also improved our website, making it more current and timely.
- **We sponsored a cut-out Norwegian troll on the Swedish Club grounds** and hosted a competition that named it “Olaf Oskar Smork.”
- **We developed new members and new leaders for our lodge.**

That brings me to the present and our January 28th meeting where our 2018 officers will be installed. I will be honored to serve as co-president alongside Haley Vingsness. Haley's youth, energy, and new ideas hold great promise for Nordkap, and I look forward to working with her.

Med vennlig hilsen (with best regards), Louise Giles

We Help Buy a Refrigerator—and Get a Privilege

When the Swedish Club refrigerator gave its last frosty gasp this fall, the Swedes faced a costly \$2600 bill to replace it. Nordkap needs a refrigerator for meetings, so we offered a \$500 gift—with one condition: We asked for naming rights to the new appliance.

The Swedes—actually their President Dan Nelson—accepted our check (see photo at right) and our terms. “Thank you very much for contributing to the Swedish Club’s Refrigeration Rescue Fund,” they later wrote. “It was a great gift of Nordic cold and friendship.”



Geir Gronstad asked for refrigerator names at our Christmas party and got the following. They will be narrowed down to five or six in January, and we will select a winner in February.

- Calvin Nator Kaldfjord Mr. Chill Snemannen
- Chilly Willy Karasjok Norge Snøhætta
- Cold Wars Kjølen Olaf Snow White
- Freezy Cool Loki Olaf Chillery The Norskie Polar Express
- Fridtjof Louise Ole Olson The Troll
- Golden Viking MATilde Shared Boundary Thor
- Iskaldt Midnight Sun Snekulen Uff-Da
- Ismannen

Families Enjoy Nordkap Christmas Party with Dancing Around the Tree



Nordkap’s best-attended Christmas party in years was held December 10 at the Western Golf and Country Club in Redford Township. The family-friendly event drew 99 people, including many youngsters who met the Julenisse bearing gifts. Here, Geir Gronstad (center back) leads the dancing and singing around the Christmas tree.

February 25 Is the Date for the 2nd Annual Nordkap Lodge Chili Cook-off!

Do you make a great chili? Is it a recipe handed down for generations? Or have you created a chili that will make others weep in joy? Please share it with your lodge!

Nordkap will be participating in the 5th District Chili Cook-off at our February 25th meeting at the Swedish Club. Our members will sample each and every chili and vote for the best one. The Nordkap winner will be

recognized by the District and have his or her name and photo posted on the District website.

If you plan to compete with your pot of chili, please tell our Sports and Recreation Director Merete Stenersen in advance. E-mail her at meretestenersen@outlook.com.



NORDKAP LODGE 5-378

c/o Bob Giles

Box 1198

Royal Oak, MI 48068