



Nordkapen

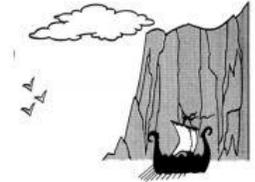
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

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 2020

Volume 90 Issue 1

NORDKAP CALENDAR

Jan. 26 – Lodge Gathering,
4 p.m., the Swedish Club

Feb. 23 – Lodge Gathering,
4 p.m., the Swedish Club

April 26 – Lodge Gathering,
4 p.m., the Swedish Club

May 16 – Constitution Day
Celebration, the Swedish Club

June 23 – Midsummer celebration,
6 p.m., the Swedish Club

Sept. 13 – Steak & Corn Roast,
1 p.m., the Swedish Club

Oct. 25 – Lodge Gathering,
4 p.m., the Swedish Club

Nov. 14 – Scandinavian Market,
10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Finnish Center

Nov. 22 – Lodge Gathering,
4 p.m., the Swedish Club

Dec. 13 – Christmas Party, 2 p.m.,
Fox Hills, Plymouth

Current Officers

President: Haley Vingsness

Vice President: Erik Duus

Treasurer: Carmen Collins

Secretary: Mary Morehead

Financial &

Membership Secretary:

Carol Jehle

Scholarship & Store Director:

Natalie Flessland Vaal

Social Director: Connie Hart

Youth Director:

Heather Vingsness

Foundation Director:

Derrick Hendricks

Editor & Publicity Director:

Louise Giles

Counselor: Bob Giles

Contact us:

Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com

Photos by Bob Giles, unless otherwise indicated

Forecast for January: Warm and Cozy

Everyone should stay toasty warm at our January 26 gathering, since we are featuring a hot Norwegian meal and warm Norwegian sweaters.

Honorary Norwegian Consul Dennis Flessland will be wearing a chef's hat for the day as he prepares a delicious meatball dinner. Suggested donation for the meal is \$7.

The sweaters figure in because everyone is encouraged to wear a favorite Norwegian sweater for the occasion. Please be prepared to tell the story of your sweater (for example, where you got it, why you like it, who made it, etc.) as we pass the microphone around for our Norwegian version of Show and Tell.

If you missed the Nordkap Christmas party and the silent auction, we have a remedy for that: There will be a second-chance silent auction in January. Items that didn't find a buyer at Christmas will be offered at reduced starting bids. All proceeds go to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

Our newly elected officers will also be sworn in. Cheer on President-elect Erik Duus and the other officers who hope to take Nordkap to greater levels of fun and excellence in 2020.

Social time is 4 p.m. Installation of officers and dinner follow at 4:30 p.m. at the Swedish Club, 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills.



Wear your Norwegian sweater!

SUNSHINE UPDATES



Derrick Hendricks and his longtime sweetheart Cassandra “Cassy” Sinke (above) recently announced their engagement to be married.

Heather Vingsness, who teaches at Catholic Central High School and coaches robotics, is excited to welcome 34 new members to the robotics team.

Sincere condolences to **Merete Stenersen-Eelnurme** on the death of her mother last month in Norway.



We are also sad to report the passing of **Catherine Mount** (above), one of the founding members of Samhold Lodge.

Best wishes to **Marge Sorensen**, recovering from a recent fall at home.

Gratulerer Med Dagen!

January Birthdays:

Anna-Maria Agopcsa, Sissel Amundsen, Donald Bjornrud Jr., Peter Blom, Lillian Bryant, Nina Bryhn, Veda Bryhn, Douglas Czinder, Sally Duffy, Elizabeth “Lolly” Duus, Erik Duus, Elsa Green, Leif Hauge, Cecilia Lundberg, Rebecca Medina, Timothy Nilsen, Sean Schnitzer, Deborah Simms, Annelisa Sturgeon

Nordkap Lodge Welcomes Samhold!

Samhold. Do you know the meaning of that word? It turns out that Samhold is a Norwegian word meaning unity.

This is significant, because Samhold was the name chosen for the Sons of Norway lodge in Auburn Hills when it started in 1964.

Today, the word unity is a good description for what’s happening between Nordkap and the former Samhold Lodge. Samhold’s leaders decided last year that its members would best be served by merging their lodge with Nordkap.

To do so, Samhold followed the procedure for an informal lodge merger required by the Sons of Norway. That procedure provides that the lodge planning to disband—in this case Samhold—ceases to exist by transferring its members into the membership of the receiving lodge—or Nordkap. The receiving lodge retains its name and lodge number—Nordkap 5-378—and its officers remain the same until the next election, which in the case of Nordkap will come in November, 2020.

In addition, Samhold agreed to transfer \$5,000 to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund, and Nordkap agreed that at least one member from Samhold Lodge would serve on the Nordkap scholarship committee.

With those agreements, Samhold merged into Nordkap on January 1.

Nordkap is grateful for Samhold’s substantial donation to the scholarship fund and is proud to welcome the 32 Samhold members who transferred to Nordkap and are now our fellow members.

Thanks to Nordkap Membership Director Carol Jehle and former Samhold President Bill Injerd for facilitating the transfer of members.

And a heartfelt to welcome to our new Nordkap members who transferred from Samhold Lodge. We are so glad to have you!

New Date for Constitution Day—May 16

We have changed the date for our celebration of Norway’s Constitution Day! The new date is Saturday, May 16, at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills. We expect the festivities will begin around 11 a.m., but watch this newsletter for updates. Our new chairperson of the event, Heather Vingsness, has some fun new ideas in the works.

News Round Up of Recent Nordkap Events

Scandinavian Market: The Scandinavian Market at the Finnish Center on November 9 drew a large, hungry crowd seeking Nordic foods and gifts to purchase for the holidays. *Tusen takk* to our volunteers for their work to make this event a success: Chairperson Carol Jehle, Dennis and Jan Flessland, Russ Simms, Eli Steyskal, Carmen Collins, Mary Morehead, Kate Zawicki, Karen and Lynn Herche, Bob and Louise Giles, Erik and Kristin Duus, Magda Pecsénye, Robert French, Marina Kozlova, and Connie and Catie Hart.



Karen Herche presides at busy import table.

November Cookie Fundraiser: We had a great turnout for a meal of Norwegian hot dogs wrapped in lefse. Member Debra Kraft had us spellbound with her account of the “Viking Funeral” held for Debra’s parents (see Debra’s PowerPoint presentation at our website at <http://www.detroitnorwegians.com/>).

We also elected officers for 2020. A highlight of the event was the cookie fundraiser to benefit the Nordkap Scholarship Fund. About a dozen members donated cookies, which sold for just \$5/dozen. The sale, chaired by Mary Morehead, raised \$165 for scholarships. Inger Ehrenfeld was voted best cookie maker. Mary Morehead came in second. Each won a special Embossing Christmas Wooden Rolling Pin.



Mary Morehead & Inger Ehrenfeld

Christmas Party and Silent Auction: Nordkap’s annual Christmas party, held for the second year at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center in Plymouth, drew 120 guests and many raves for the food and the Old World-style setting. The silent auction, to benefit the Nordkap Scholarship Fund, raised \$1,679.

All auction items were donated, so *magne takk* to donors Tove and Pres Bruning, Lynn and Karen Herche, Norm and Judy Kirsch, Arthur Aune, Peter Blom, Lillian Bryant, Carol Jehle, Carmen Collins,

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Traditional dancing around the tree

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Louise and Bob Giles, Mary Morehead, Dennis and Jan Flessland, Natalie Vaal, Erik and Kristin Duus, Eli and Roy Steyskal, Marge Sorensen, Georgia Roed, Harald Ehrenfeld, Dana Runstad, and Jeannine and Rick Sturgeon.

Also thanks to the volunteers with the auction: Catie and Chrissie Hart; Erik, Charlotte, and Lolly Duus; Derrick Hendricks and Cassy Sinke; Karen Herche; Bob Giles; and Co-Chairs Carmen Collins and Louise Giles.

Membership Director Carol Jehle presented milestone membership pins to Tove Bruning, 35 years; Eli Steyskal and Monica Dowhan, 25 years; and Diane Stanard, 20 years. She also awarded a Past President's pin to Haley Vingsness, whose term ends in January.



From left: Eli Steyskal and Monica Dowhan receive membership awards from Carol Jehle.

It was a musical evening with Christmas music before dinner played by Lynn Herche, Christmas carol singing led by the Duus Family Singers, flute and vocal solos by Alexa Francis, and keyboard accompaniment by Marina Kozlova. President Haley Vingsness presided at the party and led the dancing around the Christmas tree.

The Julenisse also came to visit, bearing gifts for the children.



The ever-popular Julenisse

The traditional marzipan pig prize--for finding the almond in the rice pudding --went to Jarrod Brown. (Marzipan pigs symbolize a successful and prosperous year ahead.) Harald Ehrenfeld was awarded a marzipan potato in recognition of the humorous “poteter” skit he’s been part of in the Norwegian language class and for his steadfast support of Nordkap, making 25 model Viking ships for our 90th anniversary “Viking” dinner cruise.



Haley Vingsness with Harald Ehrenfeld

Hail and Farewell: Dag Eidnes

Sadly we note the passing of Dag J. Eidnes of Northville on October 17, just four days short of his 94th birthday.

Dag was born in Ullensvang, Norway, but built a career in Michigan, where he was known as a hard worker. He held jobs in research and engineering at General Motors and Ford before founding his own engineering and design firm, Testek Inc., now in Wixom, where he was vice president and chairman of the board. After retirement, he spent many summers “back home” in Norway, visiting family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Gudrun, and three daughters, Kari, Ingrid, and Jody; four grandchildren; and a great granddaughter.

Dag and his family regularly attended our Nordkap Christmas parties. There he and Gudrun were faithful supporters of the silent auction, benefiting our Nordkap Scholarship Fund--often adding a generous donation to the cash due for their successful bids.

In Dag Eidnes’ memory, his family has made another generous donation to our scholarship fund—a check for

\$500. It’s a fitting way to honor his memory, Gudrun explained, because “he was so for education.”

In a letter to our lodge, Gudrun and Ingrid wrote, “Thank you for letting us join your gatherings, while we were not members. It is good to see you grow—The Dag Eidnes family.”

We hope to see the Eidnes family at future Nordkap parties and events.

Please Report Your Nordkap Lodge Hours by January 31

It’s that time of the year when we count and report the hours we spend in our lodge. We report our lodge hours for an important reason: to help the International Sons of Norway keep its nonprofit, tax-exempt status. Included with this newsletter is a two-page worksheet to help you determine your hours.

The **Fraternal Support Worksheet** represents **Preparations** for lodge meetings, events, etc. **Points** represent number of times that you worked on these activities. **Hours** represent the hours that were involved (including travel time). The **Community Service Worksheet** represents **Attending** meetings, events, and participation in community services with the lodge and outside of the lodge. **Hours** represent the hours that were involved (including travel time). Please don’t worry about exact time and hours. A reasonable estimate is acceptable. Please submit just the **TOTAL YEAR-END POINTS AND HOURS** for the **Fraternal Support** and the **Community Service** to Mary Morehead by January 31, 2020. You can email the totals of the form to: mmor7725@gmail.com or mail them to Mary Morehead, 4195 Wakefield Rd., Berkley, MI 48072. I will also accept the forms or information at our next lodge gathering on Sunday, January 26th. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me at (248) 229-9332. *Tusen takk* (thank you).
Mary Morehead



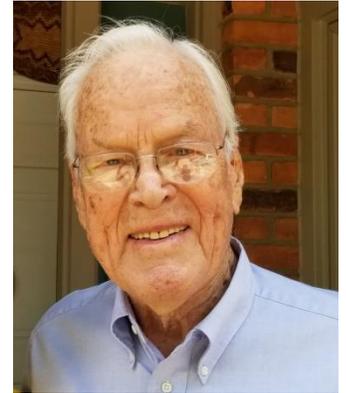
*Eidnes family at 2018 Christmas party;
from left, Jody, Ingrid, Dag, and Gudrun Eidnes*

Nordkap Member Captures Mother's Memories for Posterity

What would you do with a pile of notes handwritten by your mom, recording her adventures as a country doctor's wife?

That was the question faced by Nordkap member Peter Blom (right) when he rediscovered the forgotten notes by his mom, Celia Blom, a licensed nurse who married a handsome doctor from Norway just after World War I.

Peter was definitely part of the story--along with his younger brother John--both growing up in Wisconsin where their parents operated a rural medical clinic. Celia had written that her notes about the family and the clinic were to be part of a book, but that never happened.

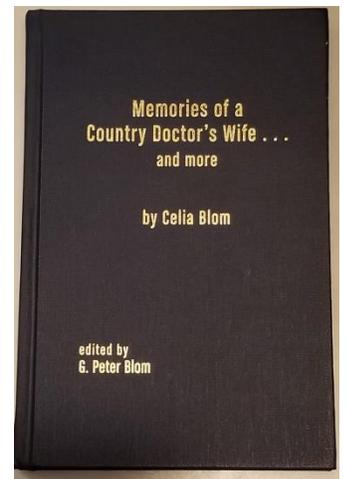


It never happened, that is, until seven years ago, when Peter published his mother's writings as *Memories of a Country Doctor's Wife*, along with reminiscences from friends and family in Wisconsin and Norway.

The slim volume is a fascinating bit of reading, bringing great detail and definition to a now nearly forgotten era. It was time of great hardship for country doctors, with no antibiotics to treat disease and most modern conveniences yet to be invented--or to make it to rural Wisconsin.

Still Celia and her husband Dr. Julius Blom were able to pursue their love of music and learning, and they made sure both their sons went to college. John became a Lutheran minister. Peter had a career in engineering sales and marketing.

One other historical note of interest: Peter and John's great-great Norwegian grandfather was Gustav Peter Blom (1785 – 1869), elected a representative to the Constitutional Assembly at Eidsvold, Norway, and a signer of the Norwegian Constitution on May 17, 1814. Great-great grandson Peter's full name is also Gustav Peter Blom.



Nordkap is indebted to Peter for his \$200 donation to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

* * *

Norwegian Language Students Set to 'Snakk Norsk' Again

Nordkap's intermediate level Norwegian language classes are set to begin again for eight weeks at the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills. Tromsø native Merete Stenersen-Eelnurme will continue as our teacher.

Classes will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on successive Wednesday evenings, beginning January 22 and ending March 11. The fee for the series is \$80, payable at the first class, January 22.

(Note: Should a student wish to cancel enrollment, a request for refund must be made before the start of the 2nd class and will be subject to the pro-rated cost of the class already given. If two or more classes have been held, a refund will not be given.)

A Letter from President Haley Vingsness

For as long as I can remember, Sons of Norway has been a part of my life. I grew up in this lodge. Many of you have known me since I was a baby. My parents joined shortly after I was born with the encouragement of my grandparents and great grandparents, who were members of Christian Radich lodge in Suttons Bay. As a child too young to understand dates, our annual events helped mark the seasons: Christmas party for winter, Syttende Mai for spring, Midsummer for summer, and my birthday for fall. As a teen, I scooped ice cream for our ice cream socials and meatballs for our Bazaar. In college at Michigan Tech, I joined the Ulseth Lodge book club; in my first real job, I took language lessons; in my move to LA, I cooked Norwegian foods. I have been able to continue my membership through so many Big Life Changes, including these endless moves (9 cities and counting!). Like mine, your involvement might grow and change throughout your life -- but Sons of Norway will always be here for you.



I might be moving to New York, but this will not be the end of my Sons of Norway journey. One of the great benefits of Sons of Norway is that it can follow you through your life transitions. This is because the nature of our lodge makes it easy for us to build these relationships. Sociologists agree that the 3 common elements of building friendships are geographic proximity, repeated interactions, and a setting that encourages people to confide in each other. It's special and unique that our lodge meetings all involve dinner, because it provides that small-group interaction that encourages friendship. When you break bread with people who share your interest in Norwegian heritage and culture, you build deeper bonds than you would in other organizations. Combined with the diverse ages and backgrounds of our members, we have something for everyone, in all stages of life.

I feel truly lucky to be a part of this family, and even luckier to have been able to give back. It has been an honor to serve you the past 2 years. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the opportunity. I hope to see you at a meeting soon.

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

Take Part in a Virtual Pilgrimage to Norway

The District 5 Sports and Recreation Committee challenges all lodge members to participate in a virtual pilgrimage from the United States to Ringsaker, Norway--the site of the 2020 International Convention. The challenge began on November 1, 2019, and continues through June 15. Members may collect their miles through any form of sports activity: i.e., walking, running, snowshoeing, biking, skiing, or swimming--even mileage accumulated at one's health club.

The challenge is designed to include a lodge's heritage and Unger Venner members, too. Youth practices, games, and tournament play will count toward any lodge total! Participants need to simply wear a pedometer or another such device to record mileage. Parents may measure distances, if pedometers are not allowed.

Posted on the District 5 webpage are the details and forms needed to complete this challenge. See http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/programs/sports_and_recreation.php

Norwegian Krumkake Class in February

Forget store-bought cookies. One bite of these Norwegian krumkake cookies, and there's no way you'll go back!

Please join Mary Morehead's Krumkake class in her home on Saturday, February 15, from noon to 4 p.m. It will be a hands-on class, and you will be able to take some Krumkaker home with you. Class will be limited to 6 people and will cost \$10 each.



Photos provided by Mary Morehead

If interested, please contact Mary by email: mmor7725@gmail.com or by texting her cell phone: (248) 229-9332.

Nordic Heritage Folk Dance Practice Begins: Glenedene Thornbloom is resuming her Nordic dance lessons at the Finnish Center Association in Farmington Hills this month. Unfortunately, the first lesson on January 26 conflicts with our monthly Nordkap gathering at the Swedish Center. Another session will be scheduled in March. We hope that date won't be in conflict with our lodge calendar and will keep you posted.

NORDKAP

LODGE 5-378

c/o Louise Giles

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48068