



# Nordkapen

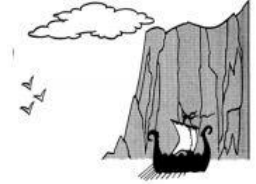
**Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway**

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

**Sunday, February 23, 3 – 6 p.m.**  
**Aquavit Tasting**  
**The Swedish Club**  
**22398 Ruth Street**  
**Farmington Hills, MI**

**Sunday, March 30, 1 – 3 p.m.**  
**Family Bowling Fundraiser**  
**Country Lanes**  
**30250 W Nine Mile Rd**  
**Farmington Hills**

**Sunday, April 27, 4 – 7 p.m.**  
**Movie Night**  
**The Swedish Club**

**Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**  
**Syttende Mai**  
**Norwegian Constitution Day**  
**The Swedish Club**

### Nordkap 2025 Officers

**President:** Haley Vingsness

**Vice President:** Heather Vingsness

**Treasurer & Scholarship Chair:**  
Carmen Collins

**Secretary:** Mary Morehead

**Membership Secretary**

**& Sunshine Director:** Carol Jehle

**Social Director & Greeter:**

Eli Viik Steyskal

**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**

Facebook:

Norwegians in Michigan

February 2025

Volume 95 Issue 2

## ***Something a Little Different: Aquavit Tasting!***

**Our members gathering on Sunday, February 23,** will take a different turn as two of our members lead us through a tasting of aquavit.

Gather with us at the Swedish Club from 3 – 6 p.m. as David Thompson and Heather Vingsness offer samples of this unique distilled spirit popular in Scandinavia.

**We'll start with a signature aquavit cocktail—** mild but delicious.

Then we can try four different kinds of aquavit while enjoying “small bites,” such as Norwegian cheese and crackers, cocktail meatballs, small franks (or sausage) in a blanket, cocktail Lit'l Smokies, and small desserts.

A \$12 donation will be requested.

**David and Heather will enlighten us** with the story of their own acquaintance with aquavit and the background of the four different brands.

For those who don't care to try aquavit, wine and soft drinks will be available for purchase, and complementary coffee will also be offered.

The Swedish Club is located at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills.



**Heather Vingsness**

## Gratulerer med Dagen

### February Birthdays:

Wyatt Boman, Kristine Nicolaysen Dowhan, Kevin Duffy, Bill Edwards, Dennis Flessland, Janet Flessland, Louise Giles, Sven Hahr, Emma Jehle, Gerald Allen Jehle, Cynthia Keech, Steven Keech, Judith Kirsch, Erik Lundberg, David Nelsen, Magda Pecsénye Zarin, Kelsie Pung, Yana Thompson

### March Birthdays:

Miriam Amundsen, Harald Ehrenfeld, Karen Frelinghuysen, Robert French, Lilje Gronstad, Sonja Gronstad, Tim Miller, Barry Rabe, Dana Runestad, Phyllis Skora, Sarah Stalmack

## Sunshine Updates

Nordkap's **Bryant Clary** invites you to attend the concert where he'll be singing with the Livonia Civic Chorus on Sunday, May 18th, at 3 p.m. The location is the performing arts center at Stevenson High School, 33500 W. Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. The chorus is celebrating its 60th anniversary, and the theme of the concert is "Welcome the 60s." Tickets are \$15.



*Signe Marwede*

We sadly share the news of the passing of **Signe Marwede**, a member of North Carolina Vikings Lodge #3-675 of the Sons of Norway in Raleigh, North Carolina. Signe was born in 1938 in Kristiansand, Norway, and passed away on January 19, 2025, in Hillsborough, North Carolina. Before moving from the Detroit area, Signe was a member of Nordkap.

Here's an update on member **Robert French**, whose truck was totaled in an accident driving home to Michigan after fighting wildfires in Washington State. Robert, who sustained only minor injuries in the crash, has since accepted a job in Prineville, Oregon, for the fire season that starts at the end of April. He's planning to fly to Oregon and buy a truck there, once he receives compensation from the insurance company.

## Bring Your Family & Bowl with Us on March 30

We bowl for fun once a year--and to raise money for the **Nordkap Scholarship Fund.**

Join us with your kids and grandkids on Sunday, March 30, from 1 to 3 p.m.

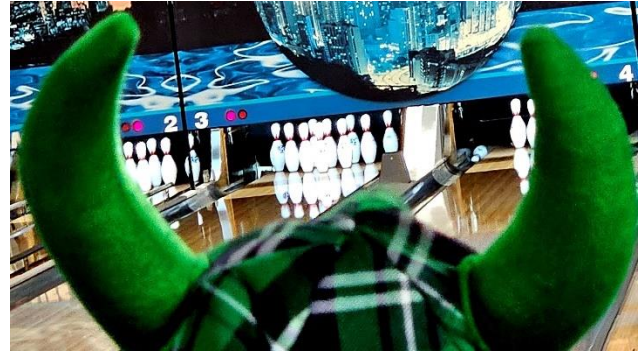
at Country Lanes Bowling at 30250 W. Nine Mile Road in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Besides bowling lanes for adults, we'll offer a dedicated lane with gutter guards for the children.

**If you don't want to bowl**, you can still come to observe and enjoy the fellowship as a "Viking cheerleader." The price for adults who bowl is \$25. For kids and non-bowlers it's \$10. For bowlers, this includes two hours of bowling, shoe rentals, two slices of pizza, and a soft drink. Non-bowlers get the pizza and soft drinks.

There are some nominal prizes for top bowlers, but the real objective is raising money, with half the funds raised going to the scholarship fund.

You don't have to be a professional bowler to have fun with us, but you need to register in advance so we can plan the event.

**Bob Giles asks that you REGISTER NOW!** Contact Bob at 248-302-2222 or [BobGiles@NewCarNews.tv](mailto:BobGiles@NewCarNews.tv)



*2024 Nordkap bowling "team"*



## ***A Letter from Vice President Heather Vingsness:***

**Hi, Lodge members,**

**We have just passed the ten darkest weeks of the year.** The sunlight is about to start peeking through the snow, and soon enough, spring will come. Until then, I will be snuggled up in my reading nook with a warm puppy and a hot mug of gløgg. *The Little Book of Hygge* by Meik Wiking describes the Scandinavian approach to happiness through hygge – a sense of comfort, togetherness, and well-being. I just finished reading it, and its insights have changed my views on winter. Embracing the principles of hygge transforms January and February from cold, emotionless, miserable months to opportunities for warmth and connection.



**Heather  
Vingsness**

**Inside the home,** hygge can be optimized through small, intimate gatherings, great lighting (especially candles), cozy socks, and comfort foods. Since reading *The Little Book of Hygge*, I have lit candles every day and substantially increased my intake of cake. I have knitted cozy scarves and cooked gallons of potato soup. Next week, my dinner will be tinned fishballs from our lodge's Norwegian imports store in a homemade white sauce. Fishballs are very hygge. Now that I know that the lefse sold at our Norwegian import store needs to be rehydrated before enjoying, I am looking forward to enjoying it rolled with butter and cinnamon as a reward for a day well spent. Lefse is very hygge.

**Outside the home,** hygge can be initiated through coffee and easy conversations with close friends. I'm excited to bring hygge vibes to our February meeting as we taste aquavit and spend time getting to know each other. Our April Movie Night is ripe for hygge, since movies and popcorn are naturally cozy activities. Enjoy warm fires (such as our midsummer's bonfire!) and a relaxing ambiance. Building close connections with people that share similar interests and values is very hygge.

I hope that this year, you will bring a cozier, happier warmth to your life and the lives of those around you. Enjoy the snow. Rest, recharge, and allow yourself to lie fallow for a bit. Give yourself some grace. Enjoy the moment. Turn off your phone. Come to a few of our lodge's monthly meetings. You might just find that Sons of Norway is very hygge.

**Yours in coziness,**

**Heather Vingsness**

**Editor's Note:** Vice President **Heather Vingsness** recently finished her second semester of graduate school and remains on track to graduate in December 2026 with a master's degree in teaching biology. She plans to study overseas next summer and has requested Mongolia, the Galapagos, or the Great Barrier Reef as a location.

Heather's twin sister, Nordkap President **Haley Vingsness**, will wed her finance **Mike Jarasz** later this month. Haley's column will continue in future issues.

## ***An Abundance of Good Things Brought us Together in January***

**Our January gathering of Nordkap members seemed to have it all:**

- Hot chicken pot pies
- Colorful Norwegian sweaters
- A second chance to buy silent auction items
- Learning to making Norwegian star ornaments
- And the swearing in of new officers for 2025.

**We even attracted some new visitors:** civil engineer Adam Hoff, who stopped in from his home near Toledo, Ohio, and Beverly Borgstrom, who learned about us at the Scandinavian Market and may be joining us a member.

**But first, the food:** We had delicious hot chicken pot pies, a crisp salad, and a Norwegian apple pie with ice cream. A palate-pleasing meal on a cold January day!



***Heather & Haley Vingsness with salad***

**Then the sweaters:** Most everyone responded to the call to wear a favorite Norwegian sweater. After dinner, we passed around the microphone, and everyone said a few words about their sweater. More than a few said they'd found their sweater at a thrift store. Several proudly reported they'd bought their sweaters at a previous Nordkap silent auction!



***Karen Herche describes her sweater.***

**Speaking of silent auctions:** We had a few very nice articles left over from our Christmas party silent auction in December. So in January, we brought the best of the remaining items to our gathering where people could make offers to buy them. It wasn't another silent auction--rather a "second-chance sale" of auction items we thought were still interesting. Happily, that proved to be the case, and another \$41 was raised for the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.



***"Second-chance sale" of auction items draws viewers.***

***(Continued next page)***



**Norwegian stars:** A big table was turned into a craft workshop where Mary Morehead taught us to fashion strips of calico fabric into Norwegian star ornaments. Anyone who wanted to try was welcome to do so, and several men—including Adam Hoff—joined women producing Norwegian stars to take home as decorations.



*Mary Morehead with Eli Steyskal*



*Adam Hoff*



*Beverly Borgstrom*



*Bette Clary & Mary Morehead*



*Workshop class with their stars.*

**Finally, our own “stars”—our officers:** Our gathering also saw the swearing in of 2025 officers:

- President:** Haley Vingsness
- Vice President:** Heather Vingsness
- Treasurer & Scholarship Director:** Carmen Collins
- Secretary:** Mary Morehead
- Membership Secretary & Sunshine Director:** Carol Jehle
- Social Director & Greeter:** Eli Viik Steyskal
- Cultural Director:** Karen Herche
- Sports Director:** Mike Jarasz
- Youth Director:** David Thompson
- Foundation Director:** Derrick Hendricks
- Co-Store Directors:** Natalie Vaal and Dennis Flessland
- Editor & Publicity Director:** Louise Giles
- Counselor:** Bob Giles

*(See photo next page)*



## ***Nordkap Officers for 2025 Installed in January at the Swedish Club***



***2025 Officers, left to right: Front row: Karen Herche, Heather Vingsness. Second row: Eli Steyskal, Carol Jehle, Louise Giles, Bob Giles, Haley Vingsness, and Derrick Hendricks. Back row: Carmen Collins, Mary Morehead. Not pictured: Mike Jarasz, David Thompson, Natalie Vaal, and Dennis Flessland.***

### ***It's Not Too Early to Think about Applying for a Nordkap Scholarship***

**If you're a college-bound student** and need financial help, consider applying for a scholarship from the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

Last year our fund awarded four \$900 scholarships to deserving students who met all requirements.

Scholarship Chair Carmen Collins stands ready to receive your application--but she needs it by the deadline of June 30. If you have questions or concerns, contact Carmen at [skicarmen@att.net](mailto:skicarmen@att.net) .

#### **To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must:**

- Be a lodge member (for a minimum of 1 year prior to scholarship application) or child/grandchild of a person who's been a lodge member for a minimum of 1 year prior to scholarship application
- Be 17-23 years of age
- Be working towards a bachelor's or associate degree from an accredited educational institution
- Be in good standing at school and have a GPA of 2.0 or better

**Get an application at:** <http://www.detroitnorwegians.com/scholarship.html>

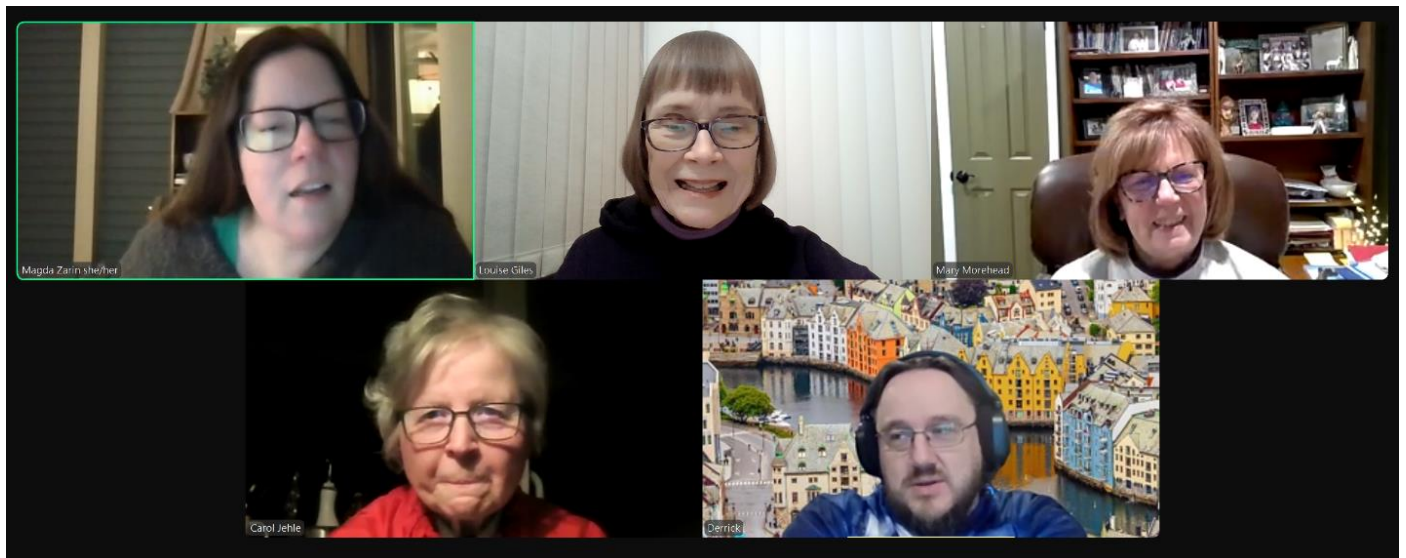
Please note: You may qualify up to 4 times for a scholarship. Scholarship amounts will be based on the availability of funds and may vary year-to-year, so donations to the fund are especially welcome.

## ***Nordkap Book Club Finds ‘Giants in the Earth’ a Good Read***

The Nordkap Book Club met February 2 to discuss the classic novel, *Giants of the Earth*, by O.E. Rolvaag--the third book they're reading on the theme of Norwegian immigration.

**Favorable comments** were made about the quality of writing, the development of characters, and the historically accurate description of life for pioneers on the North Dakota prairies. While some readers were unhappy with the ending, the story seemed to reflect the difficulties faced by immigrants from an established European society coming to a New World wilderness with virtually no supportive infrastructure.

**The fourth title for the book club** is the biography, *Grass of the Earth*, by Aagot Raaen, with discussion set for Sunday, March 2, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The fifth and last book in the current season will be chosen by book club members from a list presented by club leader, Magda Pecsénye Zarin.



***Book club members from top, left to right: Magda Pecsénye Zarin, Louise Giles, Mary Morehead, Carol Jehle, and Derrick Hendricks. Not pictured: Karen Herche. (Screenshot from Zoom)***

## ***Another Chance to See Norwegian Conductor lead the Detroit Symphony***

**Don't forget that native-born Norwegian, Tabita Berglund**, Principal Guest Conductor for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, will return for the second appearance in her new role with the orchestra.

Berglund will conduct Beethoven's Piano *Emperor* concerto No. 5 and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* on March 6 – 8.

**To buy tickets, go to:** <https://www.dso.org/events-and-tickets/events/24-25-winter/pictures-at-an-exhibition#performances-list-7340>



***Tabita Berglund***



## ***Send Your Kids, Grandkids to Masse Moro, a Norwegian Heritage Camp***

Masse Moro (meaning “lots of fun”) is a Norwegian heritage camp for both boys and girls between 9- and 15-years-old, sponsored by the Sons of Norway Fifth District. It’s a two-week sleep-away camp in Fall Creek, Northern Wisconsin, and is offered this summer from July 13 to 26.

Masse Moro has been helping youth celebrate their Norwegian heritage since 1979 through a cultural experience.

Campers participate in a set of daily activities including learning Norwegian camp songs, taking a Norwegian vocabulary class, exposure to a variety of traditional Norwegian folk arts, team sports like soccer, and Viking sports, culminating in the Viking Olympics at the end of the camp session.

Campers stay in cabins (furnished with bunk beds) along with 2 to 3 staff members and an additional 9 to 12 other campers. Tuition for one camper for the entire two-week session is \$1,200 and includes tuition, lodging, meals, and activities. Complete information and registration forms are available at <https://www.massemoro.org/>



***Masse Moro campers (Masse Moro photo)***

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