

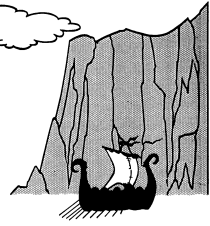


# NORDKAPEN

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 10 August 1929 - The First Lodge in Michigan

[DetroitNorwegians.com](http://DetroitNorwegians.com)



February 2012

## Fra Presidenten

It was with great sadness we learned Norval Engelsen had passed away. He was a long-time member of the Nordkap Lodge and in many ways touched the lives of Norwegian-Americans in Michigan. I have asked a few long-time Sons of Norway members to recall their fondest memories of Norval.

*The passing of Norval Engelsen is a great loss to all of us in the Norwegian Community. He recruited me to succeed him as Consul of Norway for Michigan, and assisted and supported me through the process in the Norwegian government and the U.S State Department. After I was appointed by King Harald as Consul, Norval Engelsen was my biggest supporter. He and his daughter, Elin, helped me learn about the duties and meet the right people. Much of what Consuls do is not visible to the public, but Consul Engelsen performed his duties with dignity and efficiency which is proven by the high regard and affection he received from the business and consular communities. He represented Norway for over 20 years as Consul and has been a friend to hundreds. We will miss him.*  
(Dennis Flessland)

*I have known Norval for many years thru the Sons of Norway, the Norwegian Club of Detroit and his continuing involvement in the Scandinavian Community. A "Distinguished Service Award" plaque presented to me by Norval in 1987 proudly adorns my office wall. "Class" is defined as "what you do when no one is looking". Norval also defined class! He was genteel in manner and a very nice person to be around. We all will miss him.* (Gene Steensma, President Samhold Lodge 5-473 and Norwegian Club of Detroit, Secretary)

*"Nord" was a special friend to many people, across quite diverse communities including social, business, fraternal clubs, employees, hunting, consular responsibilities, etc. both in the USA and in his native Norway. By any standard, he lived the epitome of the "American dream" by arriving here, working very hard, having a strong entrepreneurial spirit, building a loving family and doing it all the right way. Personally speaking to this, our paths crossed in a few different ways. He provided valuable mentoring and friendly advice to fellow Norwegian Club of Detroit member, Paul Aardal, and myself as we struggled to start up our own sunroom, hot spa, and sauna business in Ann Arbor. When that business failed, Nord*



**Norval E Engelsen**  
**1927 - 2012**

*was there to help us "pick up the pieces". Later, we became partners in an upper peninsula hunting camp known as Kamp 18, a relationship we enjoyed for over 20 years. In his mind, the only difference between this Camp and Norway was the absence of mountains. He always displayed a subtle but noticeable pride in knowing that game from his northwoods acreage was being served at our annual wild game dinners. One couldn't ask for a better friend, partner and influential counselor! (Merle Foss, member of the Norwegian Club of Detroit and long-time friend of Norval)*

*By his own choice, Norval Engelsen was the unsung hero of the Nordkap Lodge Scholarship Fund. The fund has helped many sons, daughters, and grandchildren of our Lodge members attend the colleges of their choice.*

*Each year, for a number of years, Norval would contact Bob and me regarding his annual donation for the scholarships--to make sure he was sending his check to the person who was handling the fund that year. His gifts were always very generous and, in several cases, single-handedly covered the three or four scholarships the lodge awarded for the year. His annual contribution of a beautifully framed wall mirror to the silent auctions at our lodge Christmas dinners always drew spirited bidding. All funds generated from the auctions, of course, are dedicated to the scholarship fund. Bob and I tried on several occasions to honor Norval for his support of the scholarship pro-*

*continued on Page 2*

## Member Initiation at Next Meeting

If you have not been initiated and your name was inadvertently omitted from this list, we urge you to come for the initiation in February. You will sign the membership logbook which has been used since 1930's.

Please contact Carol Jehle, our Membership Chairperson, at 248-626-2148 if you will attend the meeting.

Peter Blom  
Arne Borgnes  
Myrtle Ebert  
Geir Gronstad  
Eileen Hanson  
Greydon Hyde  
Roy Marvel  
Timothy Nilsen  
Maxine Paul  
Annele Richards  
Gail Ritchie  
Christine Sommer  
Eunice Turnbull  
Jennifer Vingsness

## Happy February Birthday

3 Maria Fossbakk  
3 Greydon Hyde  
4 Kristine Nicolaysen Dowhan  
6 Dennis Flessland  
10 Hannah Peterson  
14 Deborah Gummerus  
15 Sven Hahr  
15 Corrine Ristad-Wendt  
17 Arthur Peterson  
18 Annele Richards  
21 Louise Giles  
21 Emma Jehle  
26 David Nelsen  
28 Mary Hansche



## *Fra* Presidenten (cont'd from Page 1)

*gram, but he always declined any special recognition. He insisted that he wanted to remain a silent donor and that he would be uncomfortable with any tributes. At the same time, he graciously praised what we were doing and encouraged us to "keep up the good work," and, thus, succeeded in turning the praise back on someone else. (Louise Giles, Nordkap Lodge Vice President)*

*Norval was tremendously supportive when I was President of Nordkap Lodge, and later when I became President of the Norwegian Club of Detroit. He knew I was there to support my wife Louise's direct connection to her own heritage and enjoy the company of some quality Scandinavians. The fact that I was a Scot did not bother him. In fact we always had a good laugh when that topic came up. Norval was more concerned about leadership and group camaraderie. It seems the few moments we have with special people pass all too quickly. I will always count Norval as a friend of the Sons of Norway, a friend of the Norwegian Club of Detroit, a friend of the Nordic Fellows, and above all a good friend of mine. (Bob Giles)*

After the funeral service on January 27, a memorial gathering was held at the Swedish Club with memories shared by several Norwegian groups. Our most sincere condolences go to the family and we have made a donation in honor of Norval Engelsen to the Nordkap Lodge Scholarship Fund.

Med vennlig hilsen,  
Geir

## Save the Dates

**February 19 - Lodge Meeting**

**March 11 - Bowling for Scholarships**

**April 15 - Lodge Meeting - "Snakker du norsk?"**

**May 12 - Synttende Mai Celebration**

**June 19 - St Hans Celebration**

**July 21 - Farmington Founder's Day Parade  
"Winter Wonderland" theme**

**President, Geir Gronstad 248-302-5196**

**Vice President, Louise Giles 248-398-5976**

**Secretary, Jennifer Vingsness 734-427-2485**

**Financial & Membership Secretary, Carol Jehle 248-626-2148**

**Treasurer & Editor, Marge Sorensen 313-563-2280**

**Sunday, February 19, 2012**  
**Swedish Club, Farmington Hills - 248-478-2563**

**4:00 pm - Welcome & Genealogy Corner**

**4:30pm - Dinner**

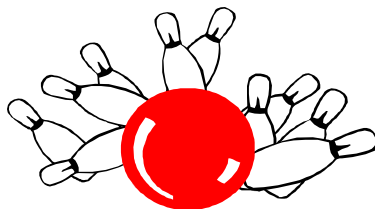
Fiskesuppe (Fish Chowder)  
(C-food.ingredients: Cod, carrots, celery, cream )  
Fastelavnsboller (Shrovetide Buns)

Items from our General Store will be available for purchase at our meeting.

**5:00pm - New Member Initiation**

**Tribute to Norwegian movies**

**REGISTER NOW!**



**Nordkap Lodge Bowling Fundraiser  
For 5th District Scholarship Fund**

**GREAT FAMILY EVENT!**

**For your \$5.00 donation you get:  
Three games, shoe rental and  
Freshly baked pizza & pop dinner.**

**SUNDAY March 11, 2012 3:00PM**

**Luxury Lanes  
600 East Nine Mile  
Ferndale, MI**

**(You don't have to be a professional bowler  
to have fun with us, but you need to register!)**  
**Money raised to go to the Sons of Norway  
Fifth District Scholarship Fund.**

**Contact Bob Giles (248 398-5976)  
to register or for more information**

## President's Corner

### If I were to do it all over again

During the last lodge meeting, I was given the chance to share some of my genealogy stories and to make some suggestions in how to search for Norwegian ancestors.

For the last 8 years, I have been searching and adding to the Gronstad family tree. Earlier, you would have to go to national archives and local churches to look through hand-written records and hopefully find single clues about your ancestors. Now, from your own computer and with a few clicks of the mouse, you can search many of these sources electronically. You may even find that others – distant relatives – have already put a lot of efforts into documenting family history that you can use and -better yet - add to.

I have not taken any classes/courses in genealogy. What I have learned is a result of many trials and even more errors. If I were to start all over again and try to find my Norwegian grandparents who lived in the early 1900s and their parents, and their parents etc, I would do the following:

1. Use a solid genealogy program. I now use Family Tree Maker. It is somewhat time-consuming to enter details (including sources), but when the database is growing, the program keeps track of who is related to whom and can provide many ways in displaying the family tree – in writing or in fan charts.

2. Go to English page of the Norwegian Digital Archive. <http://arkivverket.no/eng/content/view/full/629>

a. The Norwegian census of 1910 was just recently made available. With a search engine and a bit of luck, you'll find your ancestor there. Each person is listed by household, thus you may be able to add brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents...

b. The census of 1900 is less detailed, yet the same ancestors should be there – only ten years younger

c. Hopefully, you can find your ancestors in the 1875 census, however it is only available for a few cities/communities

d. The 1865 census is national, but is not so detailed. Be aware that family names are here mostly listed as –son or –dotter (such as Ole Torsson is the son of Tor Johanneson).

e. Then the gap is two – to-three generations wide back to the census of 1801. Only if your ancestors stayed on the same farm do you have a reasonable chance to bridge the gap.

3. Fortunately, the Mormon Church and their LDS/Family-Search can be of valuable assistance. [http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/frameset\\_search.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/frameset_search.asp)

## Fastelavn (as described in SofN Cultural Update)

Shrovetide (Fastelavn) was originally the very last day before Lent started, but has later been used as a name for the three last days before Lent, which starts on Wednesday before Easter (Ash Wednesday) and lasts until Easter Eve. The first day of Shrovetide would then be Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The Norwegians called it Fat Sunday or Shrovetide Sunday. The day after was called Fat Monday or Blue Monday, while the last day of Shrovetide was called White Tuesday or Fat Tuesday.

Both Sunday and Monday, fat foods were commonly served. On Tuesday, white foods, milk and/or flour-based foods like, for instance, hot-cross buns, were commonly served. This diet was meant to help in the transition from eating fat foods to starting the fasting period, but fat foods were not uncommon on this day, too.

Gradually, Shrovetide became a week-long celebration. A number of ancient traditions are incorporated in the holidays—customs from the pagan celebration of the coming of Spring. The custom of making *fastelavnsris*, a bundle of birch twigs, is that old. Animals and trees were playfully struck with the *fastelavnsris*, since this was believed to awaken their fertility. For this reason, young wives who still were childless also got the same treatment. Even in our time, a traditional *fastelavnsris* is decorated with flowers, fruits, and small baby dolls, signifying the meaning behind the ceremony.

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*(cont'd from previous column)*

a. The searchable archive in Salt Lake City has billions of searchable records. The members have deciphered most Norwegian Church Books prior to 1870s.

i. For the more advanced research, it is becoming more convenient to manually search through scanned pages from church books in the Digital Archives

4. Lastly, Rootsweb (free) and Ancestry.com can provide family trees that may include your distant relatives

If you would like some help with your genealogy projects - or to get started on one - please bring your genealogy questions to the next meeting. If the interest is there, I'd like the search for family history to become a regular feature during the first half-hour in our lodge meetings.

Med vennlig hilsen,  
Geir