



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



July 2012

A NON-PROFIT FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETY

Volume 83 Issue 6

President's Corner



The purpose of Sons of Norway – and our lodge – is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries (and to provide quality insurance and financial products). It is open to sons and daughters of Norway – men and women, boys and girls of Norwegian descent or to anyone with an interest in – and love of - Norway

We offer a variety of activities – aimed at the young-at-heart in our effort to keep the heritage alive while sharing/learning more about contemporary issues in today's Norway. We provide educational programs targeted at all our members, but especially our younger generations. We have fundraising for scholarships for our young people and support Norse-related charities and non-profits. As our lodge is faced with the challenge of recruiting and retaining membership, I'd like to see if we can categorize the needs of members in an international cultural club such as ours into definable sub-groups so we can organize our events and activities accordingly. Just by looking at my own experiences with the Nordkap Lodge I propose two ways – as a frame work – to classify members and some of their characteristics; by personal connection to Norwegian culture and by age:

1. Norwegian, temporary in the U.S., such as
 - a. student or on a short-term job assignment
 - i. Interested in events such as May 17th and Christmas celebration
2. Norwegian, permanently in the U.S.
 - a. First language is Norwegian
 - i. Share insight of Norwegian culture and traditions
3. 1st generation Norwegian-American
 - a. Born in the U.S., first language is English
 - i. Knowledge of heritage impacted by parents' willingness to share culture and traditions

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Saturday, July 21, 2012

Join the Parade



On July 21, we will participate in the Founders' Day parade in Farmington. Even though the theme of the parade is "Winter Wonderland", our theme is the Scream – as in the painting by Edward Munch. We plan to take photos of ourselves and spectators imitating the Scream and put these images on our web-site. General Motors has provided a red Corvette Convertible in which we will have DJ H-Consul D(ennis Flessland) spin music from Detroit's own techno scene by global Norwegian superstars Lindstrøm, Todd Terje and Prins Thomas, and the up-and-coming Donkeyboy.

We need young people of all ages to come along. Bring your flags, helmets, Norway shirts/attire, hearing protection, fish toss trophies, and anybody who wants to Norwegian-ish for a day. We line up by 9 a.m. as the parade begins at Power Rd. and Grand River Ave traveling west through Downtown Farmington ending at Liberty St.

Special Instructions for Parade marchers

People planning to march with Nordkap can park at Farmington High School on Shiawassee Road just west of Orchard Lake Road, and shuttles will take them to the assembly point near Grand River Avenue and Power Road to join our unit. They should look for our unit number 53 (the numbers will be marked on the pavement). Marchers should be in place with our unit between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. The parade is scheduled to start at 9:40 a.m.

Ooh, What a Knight! Farmington Sons of Norway Lodge Member Receives High Honor

Dennis Flessland, Norway's honorary consul to Michigan, receives The King's Knight First Class of the Order of Merit.

The Honorable Dennis Flessland of Huntington Woods, Norway's honorary consul to Michigan, has been selected to receive an extraordinary honor from His Majesty King Harald of Norway. Flessland, an attorney and member of Farmington Hills-based Nordkap Lodge of the Sons of Norway, was awarded The King's Knight First Class of the Order of Merit for "meritorious services for Norwegian interests and Norwegian citizens." The Order with its unique medal was presented by Sissel Breie, Norway's Consul General in New York, in a June 26 ceremony at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Sponsored by the office of the Consul General in New York and by the Nordkap Lodge, the ceremony included a reception in the museum's historic Kresge Court.

The Royal Norwegian Order of Merit was founded by Norway's King Olav V in 1985. It is conferred on foreign and Norwegian nationals as a reward for their outstanding service in the interest of Norway. The King of Norway is the Grand Master of the Order.

The Insignia of the Order is the Cross of St. Olav, a medal wrought of gold or silver, with a plain crown in each of the four corners formed by the arms of the cross, inlaid with a rounded, red cross in the centre with King Olav V's monogram surmounted by a crown. The order's ribbon is made of navy blue silk, and the medal is worn on the left breast.

The King's right to bestow orders is provided in the Norwegian Constitution, which specifies that such orders carry no rank or title other than that attached to any office nor do they confer any special rights upon their recipients.

About 80 people, including several members of Detroit's consular corps, turned out for the event. Guests enjoyed a festive dessert buffet, with freshly prepared bananas foster, cheesecake, petite fours, fruit and cheese, in the atrium of the museum's historic Kresge Court. A quartet of musicians in Scandinavian folk attire softly played Scandinavian tunes as attendees sipped drinks and coffee. Consul General Sissel Breie received a personal tour of highlights of the museum collection before pinning the Knight First Class award on Flessland's left lapel.



Among the art works she viewed were suits of armor in the Great Hall--part of the armor collection of newspaperman William Randolph Hearst acquired by the museum. Norwegian Club of Detroit president Bob Giles joked that he would speak to the museum director to see that Flessland could borrow a suit of armor or two, should his future duties as Knight First Class warrant suiting up in full battle dress for jousting. Both Giles and Geir Gronstad, president of the Sons of Norway's Nordkap Lodge, the sponsor of the event, were featured speakers at the ceremony. In accepting his award, Flessland thanked King Harald, the Consul General, the guests in attendance, and the Norwegian and consular community for their support. He also recalled his late mother who had Swedish ancestry but also proudly honored the Norwegian heritage of her husband, Chris Flessland, who was present to see his son receive the rare honor.

—Geir Gronstad

A dear member of the Nordkap Lodge is no longer with us. Our dear friend Christine Jurgensen passed away in June. She was a very involved member of the Nordkap Lodge and other Scandinavian organizations in the Detroit area. The Viking hike at the annual mid-summer celebration used to be marked by her and she also started the tradition of making witches for the mid-summer bonfire.

Remembering Christine Jurgensen

Several Nordkap members fondly remembered Christine Jurgensen at our midsummer event in June as they expressed their condolences in a card later mailed to her daughter.

Thad Aardal recalled that Christine had served as Nordkap's secretary and treasurer for many years and was deeply involved with Nordkap in the Scandinavian Festival on the Detroit waterfront in the 1970s and 1980s. He concluded, "Christine was one special person."

Louise Giles also recalled Christine's work as the lodge secretary: "Christine was secretary before me—I learned a lot from her. She ran our Norwegian 'store' for many years and hand-made our meatballs for the Scandinavian bazaar." (Louise also remembers that Christine was always available to pick up the slack when others weren't able to help—serving a term as scholarship chairperson, collecting lodge members' stamps for the Tubfrim charity and educational coupons for Sons of Norway's adopt-a-school program, helping set up Nordkap's tables at the bazaar.)

Carol Jehle wrote: "Christine was one of my favorite people. In her quiet way, she would start something, call me, and then work together. She was special."

Marge Sorensen wrote that Christine was "a great lady. We will miss her."

Jennifer Vingsness wrote: "Christine was a special person for me at Nordkap. When I was new, she always kept track of me and made sure our family was included, lent us bunads for the parade, taught us how to make witches. We will remember her always with a special place in our memories and heart."



Christine ready to walk with Haley and Heather Vingsness in Farmington's 2008 Founders Day Parade

Lori Gronstad recalled that Christine "made and sent my daughter a midsummer witch last summer. I'm glad we didn't burn that one. She was such a generous spirit. She'll be missed."

Geir Gronstad added: "Christine was one of the pillars in our organization."

Norway's Honorary Consul to Michigan, Dennis Flessland, concluded: "The whole Scandinavian community is stronger because of Christine's work."

President's Corner

(cont'd from Page 1)

4. 2nd generation Norwegian-American
 - a. Knowledge of Norwegian culture is from personal contact with grand - parents
 - i. Maintain older traditions
5. 3+ generation Norwegian-American
 - a. May never have been to Norway or been in contact with a Norwegian members
 - i. Open to be introduced to the heritage
6. Spouses of all of the above

Further these categories can be influenced by the age/life status of the members (note that the age brackets are suggestive):

Pre-school age (0-5), Elementary School (5-10), Middle School (10-15), High School (15-18), College (18-24), Single young adult (18-35), Married young adult – no kids (25-35), Married adult – young kids (25-40), Married adult – older kids (30-50), Older adult (35-60), Grandparents (45-70), Retirees (55-80), Great-grandparents (65-100)

I'd like to further refine this approach over the next few months and will appreciate any of your feedback.

— Geir Gronstad

Happy July Birthday

- 4 Benjamin Lanham
- 7 Arnold Hagen
- 14 Gladys Brinson
- 16 Erik Vingsness
- 30 Frode Maaseidvaag
- 31 Monica Dowhan



Member News

Congratulations to Heritage Member Erik Sorensen who was named 10th grade "Student of the Year" at Dearborn Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (DCMST).

DCMST is a specialized secondary education center whose focus is advanced preparatory studies in mathematics, science and technology. DCMST strives for excellence in projects centered around teamwork and a math and science curriculum. About 75 students from all three Dearborn High Schools are selected each year to participate in this program. Erik is the grandson of Marge Sorensen

Congratulations to Kristen Schotts who was married on June 30. Kristen is one of Nordkap's scholarship recipients. She is the granddaughter of Gladys Brinson, daughter of Dale and Susan Schotts and niece of Carol Jehle.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who have contributed to Nordkap's Scholarship Drive. The drive continues! We will publish the list of donors to date as well as 2012 scholarship recipients in the next issue of Nordkapen.

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