



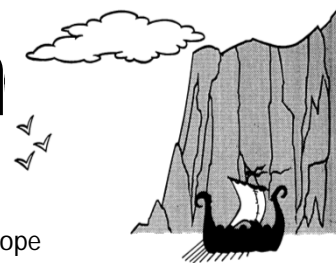
Nordkape

**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

<http://www.detroitnorwegians.com>



U 2014

Volume 84 Issue 2



March "Bowling for Scholarships"

Our March Bowling for Scholarships" meeting was a great success! We raised \$310 from forty-four attendees, including thirteen "Viking Cheerleaders" who gathered on March 16, 2014 to both enjoy the sport of bowling and further the goals and mission of our District Scholarship program.. We must be doing something right, because this annual event grows bigger every year. Last year we contributed \$160 to the fund.

Top bowlers in the three categories are:

Adult Male: Mike Jehle 451

Adult Female: Stacy Torgerson 425 Youth

11 and Under: Zoe Hekneby 275 Youth 12 to 18: Daniel Ruthowski 289

Zoe will receive a special prize for her great bowling Wednesday night at our language class.

Sunday, April 27, 2014

Swedish Club – 4:00 PM

22398 Ruth Street

Farmington Hills

248-478-2563



Join us for a good cup of coffee, good conversation, open-faced sandwiches, and a program outlining the events that led to Norway's constitution.

Sunshine Reports

Karen Herche continues her recovery and rehab from the knee replacement surgery she had in February.

"Torgie" Torgeson is continuing medical procedures to treat melanoma and has had a number of surgeries as part of this effort.

Finn Roed continues his recovery and rehab from the broken hip he suffered in a fall on the ice this month

In Remembrance: Rigmor Cuolahan

April 13, 1926 - February 7, 2014

The license plate on her Honda Civic read simply, “Rigmor.” Her son Erik called her “my hero.” But Rigmor Cuolahan, a native Norwegian and a member of Nordkap Lodge since 1969, was so much more to so many people:

As a strong-willed teenage girl when Germany invaded Norway in World War II, she was a staunch defender of her country. Along with other Norwegians, she pointedly turned her back on occupying German soldiers and, when refusing to sit with them, she was thrown off a train by a gun-wielding German officer.

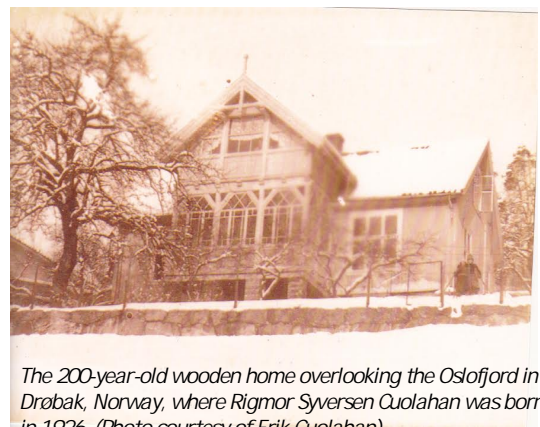
With her father, she hand-delivered secret messages for the Norwegian resistance.

When neighboring Finland was invaded by Russia before the war, she attended rallies to gather food and clothing for Finland, and she knit mittens with holes for the trigger fingers for Finnish soldiers and resistance fighters.

After the war, as an English-major graduate of the University of Oslo, she was executive secretary to the president of the famed Freia chocolate company, taking dictation in five languages—English, Norwegian, Swedish, French, and German.

Later as a young wife and mother in her adopted America, she began a half-century of volunteerism and leadership in local ethnic organizations that in 1996 won her the Spirit of Detroit Award from the Detroit City Council and induction into the International Institute Heritage Hall of Fame —along with such Detroit giants as David DiChiera (founder of the Michigan Opera Theatre) and Peter Karmanos (founder of Compuware).

So Rigmor Syversen was “She was a mother, a humanitarian, and a saint.” She was a 200-year-old house overlooking the Oslofjord in Drøbak, Norway, in 1926, she was the granddaughter of a Norwegian ship captain and the daughter of electrical engineer Rolf Emanuel Syversen, head of the electrical engineering department at Oslo’s landmark City Hall, and his wife Ella.



The 200-year-old wooden home overlooking the Oslofjord in Drøbak, Norway, where Rigmor Syversen Cuolahan was born in 1926. (Photo courtesy of Erik Cuolahan)

Rigmor didn’t wait long, though, to establish her own credentials. At the age of 3, she began weekly studies in a children’s craft workshop, learning knitting, embroidery, and weaving, and was soon recognized as a child prodigy.

- (cont. on p.3 col. 1)

Rigmor *(continued from p. 2)*

She continued with the workshop—in addition to her regular schooling—for five years, receiving a gold cross attendance award from the Queen of Norway for never missing a day at the school

Her technical mastery of needlework grew and continued for more than 80 years, producing some legendary results. During the war, when all commodities in Norway were scarce and imports were stopped, Rigmor repaired women's sheer stockings with hair from her own head. She made fine clothes out of a British parachute.

Later, when a friend asked her to mend a sock with no heel and no toes that he had worn as a soldier, she repaired it so perfectly that he had it framed instead of wearing it. For her high school graduation, she made her own cap and jacket from a pair of her father's wool pants. With her aunts, she made the elaborate hand-embroidered Norwegian bunad she wore at 17th of May celebrations. And in America, for many years she sold her hand-knit items at bazaars, including dolls wearing Norwegian sweaters and matching hats, plus full-size Scandinavian hats and mittens for children and adults.

As a young woman in Oslo, Rigmor relished the vibrant atmosphere of the capital city where her parents had moved the family—now including her younger brother, Hardon—from their Drøbak home on the fjord. They lived just a short walk from Frogner Park where she and her friends frequently encountered the artist Gustav Vigeland who worked there for more than 20 years, creating an amazing sculpture park.

With her Scandinavian good looks reminiscent of Ingrid Bergman, Rigmor developed friends at the National Theatre and was a welcome guest at parties along Embassy Row. She had many boyfriends. But it was a shipboard romance with a tall, dark American with a degree in metallurgy who had been a nose gunner in a U.S. Navy Air Corps Liberator bomber that won her heart.

Happy Birthdays!**March**

02 Ilje Gronstad
08 Sonja Gronstad
14 Louise Harrison

April

03 Clarence Myrold
04 Kenneth Hildre
04 Howard Skovlund
09 Wade Tornquist
11 Thad Aardal
12 Karen Eggers
12 Howard Skovlund
20 Erik Sorensen
23 Ian Sorensen
25 Eunice Turnbull

**This and That**

Did you know we now have activities planned for small children so parents enjoy the meeting and program while their children are having a good time in an adjoining room?

Applications are being accepted for the Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp:

Sunday, July 20 through Saturday, August 2, 2014
 Planned and Operated by: **Sons of Norway - District Five Lodge**
 District Five Youth Director: **Mary Bennett, (608) 837-8335** E-mail: **MJBenn4@gmail.com**
www.MasseMoro.org and www.SonsOfNorway5.org.

Rigmor (continued from p. 3)

She and Paul Cuolahan from Michigan met onboard a transatlantic ocean liner as Rigmor was returning to Oslo from visiting an uncle in Chicago. Their courtship continued for three years until Paul and Rigmor married in Lansing, Michigan, in 1953. The couple lived in a Livonia house for many years and later moved to a condominium in Northville. They had two sons, Erik and Tim, and eventually three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. But before her sons were born, Rigmor returned to work, serving as executive secretary at a Detroit lumber firm. Following the birth of her children, it was volunteerism, first learned from her parents in Norway, that took Rigmor's attention. She began by volunteering at her son's school, lecturing about the history and culture of Norway and showing its crafts. Soon, other schools were asking her to speak. Erik recalls her appearing at several schools in the Detroit area and one in Windsor, Ontario—all in the same day.

Leadership in Detroit's ethnic community and the Detroit International Institute quickly followed. Rigmor served as board member of the International Institute and ran its gift shop. She was variously cultural director, social director, and vice president of Nordkap Lodge of the Sons of Norway. With her husband and son, she volunteered for many years at the Scandinavian Festivals on Detroit's riverfront. She was president of the Danish Sisterhood and was active in the Senior Danes, Finnish Center Association, Swedish Club, and Cosmopolitan Women's Club. For 10 years in the mid-1970s to mid-1980s, she hosted "The Norwegian Hour" on Detroit's WMUZ-FM radio, then called "the station of the nations." She was also a newspaper correspondent for the former "Nordic News" in Detroit and "Nordic Times" in New York. At the Danish Club and later the Swedish Club, she led an elementary schoolchildren's group called Jada where she taught the crafts, songs, dances, and games of Scandinavia for many years.



Nordkap 2014 Scholarship Applications

Due June 30, 2014

Scholarship applications are available. If you have any questions or need an application, please contact Natalie Vaal at

nordkap.scholarships@gmail.com
or see Natalie at a lodge meeting.

To be considered for this scholarship, applicants must

- Be a lodge member or child/grandchild of a member for minimum 1 year prior to scholarship
- Be 17-23 years of age
- Be working towards a bachelor's or associate's degree from an accredited educational institution
- Be in good standing at school, have a GPA of 2.0 or better
- Please note you may qualify up to 4 times

Nordkap Events



April 27 – Regular lodge meeting
 May 11 (tentative) – Tiger Game
 May 14 – 200th Celebration at Lark Restaurant
 (watch mail for invitation & details)
 May 17 - Syttende Mai at Swedish Club
 July 19 – Farmington Founder's Day Parade
 December 14 – Christmas Party

After our ° meeting, it will be 17 days until we celebrate the bicentennial of Norway's Constitution!

