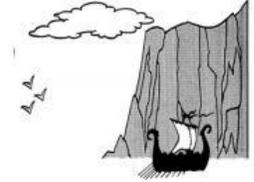




# Nordkapen

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 SofN Lodge in Michigan  
<http://www.detroitnorwegians.com>



May 2015

Volume 85 Issue 4

## 2015 NORDKAP EVENTS

May 17 – Norwegian  
Constitution Day

June 23 – St. Hans/Mid-  
summer celebration

June 28 – Detroit Tigers  
game

July 18 – Founder's Day  
Parade "There is No Place  
Like Home, USA"

September tbd – Youth Day

September 13 – Corn & Steak

October 25 – Lodge Meeting

November 14 – Scandinavian  
Bazaar

November 22 – Lodge  
Meeting

December 13 – Christmas  
Party

## NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION (SYTTENDE MAI 2015 – MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> 2015)

An indoor/outdoor celebration

at the Swedish Club, 22398 Ruth Street, Farmington Hill

The free event, set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., is open to people of all ages, but includes many activities for young people and families with small children:

- **11 a.m.** Swedish Club opens with Norwegian food imports and gift items for sale
- **11:30 a.m.** Parade for all attendees begins, led by Scandinavian folk musicians
- **12 noon.** Greetings from Nordkap Lodge and Norway's honorary consul to Michigan
- **12:30 p.m.** Picnic-style foods and Norwegian waffles available for purchase
- **1 p.m.** Special activities and games offered, including the "cod toss" (throwing frozen fish for distance and prizes)
- **2 p.m.** Norwegian dessert buffet opens
- **3 p.m.** Event concludes

## SCHOLARSHIP

Nordkap 2015 Scholarship Applications  
Due June 30, 2015

Scholarship applications are available on our website or contact Natalie Vaal at [nordkap.scholarships@gmail.com](mailto:nordkap.scholarships@gmail.com).

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 submission
- 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 for this scholarship



## GRATULERER MED DAGEN

### April

Thaddeus Aardal, Kenneth Hildre, Annette Lundberg, Clarence Myrøld, Constance Pike, Howard Skovlund, Erik Sorensen, Ian Sorensen, Wade Tornquist, Eunice Turnbull.

### May

Anton Anderssen, Arne Borgnes, Myrtle Ebert, Olive Engman, Helen Fischer, Norman Kirsch, Kathleen Hanlon-Lundberg, Zachary Marko, Ralph Pedersen, Gail Ritchie, Finn Roed, Laura Roed, Susan Schotts, Patricia Smith, Jennifer Vingsness

### June

David Ray Bryhn, Ronald Greenough, Ernest Halvorson, Jeff Hatteberg, Maureen Hatteberg, Adrienne Shepard, Kristy Smythe, Sheryl Torgerson, Samuel Trupiano, Edward Vingsness

## APRIL MEETING FEATURED FOOD HOT OFF THE GRILL, CRAFTY PAPER WITCHES, AND A COLORFUL POWERPOINT ABOUT 17<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY IN NORWAY

The coals in the charcoal grill were glowing red hot under a beautiful spring sky...the paper and cloth materials were prepped and laid out to be tied into perfect paper witch dolls...the colorful PowerPoint about the 17<sup>th</sup> of May in Oslo was queued and ready to show.



At the grill (left to right): Dennis Flessland, Øystein Hekneby, Bob Giles, Geir Gronstad

Bob Giles Photo

The Nordkap volunteers who helped organize our lodge meeting at the Swedish Club last month did a great job and ensured that all who attended had a tasty meal, learned a new craft, and learned how Norway celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Constitution in Oslo last year



Carl Johan Street in Oslo on May 17, 2014. Photo: Kia Hekneby

### Tusen takk to

- Dennis Flessland, who prepared the coals for people to grill their own meals
- Øystein Hekneby, who presented an informative, illustrated talk about his trip with his family to be part of 17<sup>th</sup> of May in Oslo



Øystein Hekneby presents his trip

Bob Giles Photo



## SUNSHINE UPDATES

Our members Marge Sorensen, Jennifer Vingsness, Karen Herche and Georgia Roed are experiencing some health challenges and we wish them the best as medical treatments continue

### 2015 Officers

**President:**

Louise Giles 248-224-3369

**Vice President:** Elsa Jorgensen

248-561-1452

**Secretary:** Open

**Financial &**

**Membership Secretary:**

Carol Jehle 248-626-2148

**Treasurer:**

Marge Sorensen 313-563-2280

**Editor:**

Geir Gronstad 248-649-2779

**Foundation Director:**

Natalie Flessland Vaal

248-761-3982

**Counselor:**

Bob Giles 248-302-2222

**Sunshine Chairperson:**

Sylvia Lindemann 248-320-3276

- Carol Jehle, Gladys Baldwin, and Sue Schotts, who mastered the craft of making paper witches and provided pre-cut materials to teach the best of us how to do it

*The three master witch-makers of Nordkap Lodge; Carol, Gladys and Sue.*



*Photo: Bob Giles*

The paper witches will be used to fulfill a centuries-old tradition of keeping the bad away by tossing a paper witch into the bonfire on Midsummer Eve, called Sankthansaften or St. John's Eve, in Norway. Nordkap will hold the event on June 23 at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills.



*Assembled paper witches*



*Dennis and Jan Flessland work on assembling the head of their paper witch.*

## BASEBALL TICKETS AND NORDKAP T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE

Tickets and T-shirts for our lodge outing to see a Detroit Tigers game are now available and can be purchased at the May 17<sup>th</sup> celebration at the Swedish Club or our Midsummer event June 23 at the Heritage Park on Farmington Road south of 11 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.



The date for our annual group baseball outing is Sunday, June 28, when the Tigers take on the Chicago White Sox. The first pitch is set for 1:08 p.m. at Comerica Park in Downtown Detroit.

We hope that all participating will wear their red "Detroit Norwegians" T-shirts, as we make an entrance together into the ballpark. Don't have a Detroit Norwegians T-shirt? Not to worry! You can purchase one for \$18 at the same time you buy your baseball ticket for \$32. See Bob Giles for tickets and Geir Gronstad for T-shirts. Or contact Bob at [bobgiles@newcarnews.tv](mailto:bobgiles@newcarnews.tv) and Geir at [datsnorg@gmail.com](mailto:datsnorg@gmail.com).



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### Hurra for Norge...and Nordkap's 17<sup>th</sup> of May Celebration!

The 17<sup>th</sup> of May—Syttende Mai—Norwegian Constitution Day: It's the biggest national holiday in Norway, sometimes compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, our American Independence Day. And it's celebrated in Norway and around the world, wherever Norwegians or people of Norwegian descent gather to honor their heritage and the constitution that established Norway as a sovereign state.

No wonder the 17<sup>th</sup> of May is the biggest and most festive event of the year for Nordkap Lodge! With our parade, colorful bunads, patriotic speeches, music, picnic, games, Norwegian foods and gift items available for purchase, we turn the grounds of the Swedish Club into a fun-filled Norwegian festival.

The celebration is happening this year on the actual day of the 201st anniversary of the constitution—Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> itself. Events will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the parade kicking off at 11:30 in front of the Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

The American, Canadian, and Norwegian flags will be proudly carried by standard bearers at the head of the parade and many people will carry small Norwegian flags as they march and cheer, "Hurra for Norway!"



*Photo: Bob Giles*

The flag of Norway is especially important to the Norwegian people, since displaying it was forbidden or severely restricted when Germany occupied Norway during World War II. Once Germany surrendered and the war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945, Norwegian flags popped out all over the country and were a big part of the joyous Syttende Mai celebration that year.

This year, 2015, marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of that war, and our Syttende Mai celebration will include a tribute to those Nordkap members who served in the military during World War II. While Syttende Mai festivities are no longer political demonstrations, they still provide a vehicle for the outward display of Norwegian patriotism, pride and gratitude. We will use ours to express our thanks to our veterans.

Louise Giles

Nordkap President

**None of the extensive 17<sup>th</sup> of May events we have planned will happen by accident. They are the product of the planning and hard work of Nordkap officers and members. We are still in need of volunteers for this year's celebration. If you can help by donating a dessert, grilling hot dogs, selling goods at our imports table, or helping run the children's games, please let Carol Jehle know by e-mailing [jehlecarol@yahoo.com](mailto:jehlecarol@yahoo.com) or calling 248-626-2148.**



*Photo courtesy of the Torgerson Family*

## Remembering Torgy Torgerson

A longtime member of Nordkap Lodge, Claire Allen “Torgy” Torgerson, passed away at 76 on Saturday, April 25, surrounded by his family.

With his Norwegian background and interest in all things Norwegian, Torgy joined Nordkap in May 1999 to further explore his heritage. He was an active participant in lodge meetings, where members could count on his mischievous smile and droll wit to add a note of levity to the proceedings. He was also a familiar site at many other Nordkap activities, such as 17<sup>th</sup> of May celebrations, bowling fundraisers, the Farmington Founders Festival parade, and Christmas dinners.

Torgy seemed always to have luck on his side. If he was in a Nordkap 50/50 raffle, it was a disincentive for others to join--they knew Torgy would win. But he once confided his secret of taking the jackpot: It wasn't luck; it was matter of buying 20 tickets or more to increase the odds of winning!

A proud veteran, Torgy served in the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division from 1956-1958 and was stationed in Germany during the Cold War.

In civilian life, he was an artisan floor mechanic for almost 50 years, installing carpet, hardwood floors, ceramic tile, and marble. He appreciated the craftsmanship of those with whom he worked, proudly contributing his efforts to those of architects, carpenters and his partners.

An athlete in his youth, Torgy continued to enjoy sports, particularly the Detroit Lions and Detroit Tigers. He even tried his hand at Nordkap's competitive “cod toss”—throwing frozen fish for distance and prizes.

He and his wife Shirley were married for 54 years. Besides Shirley, he is survived by their five daughters, Sheryl Dalton, Susan Torgerson, Sandra Bliss (Tommie), Sarah Stalmack (Brett), Stacy Torgerson (David Finzel); four grandchildren; and one great granddaughter. They also had a son, the late Glenn Allen.

Torgy loved spending time with his family, animals of all kinds, and sharing his love of nature. He enjoyed being on the Big Waters, boating and camping, exploring and traveling. With daughter Sheryl, he went to Norway to meet his relatives and stand on the land overlooking a fjord where his ancestors once farmed. He also traveled with family members to places around the United States, seeking out sites of significant Norwegian interest.

His favorite pastime was meeting and learning about people from different cultures. He loved hearing each person's unique story and bringing laughter to all whom he met.

His family particularly noted his insatiable thirst for learning. As recently as two years ago, while he was fighting the cancer that would take his life, Torgy joined Sheryl in taking Norwegian language lessons hosted by Nordkap Lodge.

Someplace in heaven, they surely speak Norwegian.

*Excerpted from the obituary provided by the Torgerson family to the A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home web site with additional material by Louise Giles*

## **MAY 17 – NORWAY'S NATIONAL DAY**

**Every year on May 17 Norwegians fill the streets with cheers and flags in celebration of Norway's constitution adopted in 1814. School children, many wearing national costumes, march in parades to the beat of thundering bands, and a resounding "Hurrah for the 17th of May!" can be heard throughout the day.**

The May 17 celebrations vary from place to place, but usually follow a traditional pattern that makes this the highlight of the year for most Norwegian children. A must in the celebrations are the children's processions, made up of school classes marching with the school band through the local community. Most of the children carry small Norwegian flags and the route is lined with enthusiastic onlookers. Dressed in their best, the children then engage in games and activities, and for many this is the one day of the year where the supply of ice cream and hot dogs is endless.

### **Dress**

Most people dress in their best spring clothes, with a Norwegian flag or May 17 ribbon pinned to their lapel. It has become increasingly popular to wear the national dress, the bunad, on this occasion. The bunad varies in appearance from region to region and the magnificent sight of national costumes from all over the country is one of the reasons why this day truly represents a celebration of Norwegian tradition and history.

### **Food**

May is the month when spring really blooms in Norway, and this influences the menu chosen for the day. While hot dogs and ice cream are popular with the children, the adult population often stick to cured meats, sausages, traditional sour cream porridge and many throw barbecues. Desserts and cakes are a must, and many schools and families give breakfast parties before the procession starts.

### **The "russ" celebration- ending 13 years of school**

The 17<sup>th</sup> of May is also the day pupils in their last year of upper secondary school celebrate the end of 13 years of school, even though many still have to pass final exams. They call themselves "russ" and illustrate their standing through colorful overalls depending on their line of study. High spirits are the norm and the festivities usually last day and night. Many transport themselves around town in self-decorated buses and vans with slogans and booming music.

### **History**

Norway adopted its constitution in 1814, and it is this event that is celebrated 17 May. The Norwegian Parliament, the Storting, held the first 17 May celebrations in 1836, and from then on the day was regarded as the national day. The first children's procession was held in 1870. Since 1906, the Royal Family have gathered on the balcony of the Royal Palace in Oslo to wave to the children marching by.

*From the Norwegian Embassy, Washington D.C. ([www.norway.org](http://www.norway.org))*

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## **NORDKAP LODGE 5-378**

c/o Geir Gronstad  
1782 Boulan Dr.  
Troy, MI 48084

[Recipient Name]

[Street Address]

[City, ST ZIP Code]